Man who sued govt over crash directed to file new suit. PAGE 3
USNS *Guam* is christened in Okinawa. PAGE 8

Hafa Adai!

75¢

Saipan Tribune

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CHCC board down to two

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Health Care Corp. board is down to two members, with a recent board member leaving the ranks a few weeks ago.

That leaves the board with only two members: board chair Lauri Ogumoro and Saipan representative Polly Masga.

That leaves the board with no quorum, which means it cannot conduct meetings and business.

Saipan Tribune learned that Saipan representative David Rosario left the CHCC board a few weeks ago, according to sources familiar with the matter.

William M. Cing, the

See CHCC on Page 4

The American Memorial Park quarter shows a young Chamorro girl in traditional attire standing in front of the American Memorial Park's Flag Circle and Court of Honor and resting her hand on the plaque that pays tribute to the people in the Marianas who perished during World War II.

BEA CABRERA

US Mint unveils AMP quarter

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

The U.S. Mint brought its America the Beautiful Quarters Program to the CNMI yesterday with the release of its 47th coin design featuring the American Memorial Park that will appear on the "tail" side of the U.S. quarter.

The coin was launched yesterday for circulation in the U.S. and around the world at the AMP amphitheater on Beach Road in Garapan.

The quarters program honors 56 national parks and national sites on each state, the

See US MINT on Page 4

'DESPITE YUTU'S DEVASTATION'

'600K arrivals is still remarkable'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Despite Super Typhoon Yutu that walloped the CNMI last October, the Commonwealth was still able to hit 600,000 in visitor arrivals—a feat that Gov. Ralph DLG Torres described yesterday as "truly remarkable."

According to the Marianas Visitors Authority numbers, a total of 607,593 visitors came to the Marianas in fiscal year 2018.

"That's really a remarkable number of visitors," said Torres as he and Lt. Gov. Arnold

See 600K on Page 4

Emperor abdicates; Japan marks end of era

By MARI YAMAGUCHI
ASSOCIATED PRESS

TOKYO (AP)—Japanese Emperor Akihito announced his abdication at a palace ceremony Tuesday in his final address, as the nation embraced the end of his reign with reminiscence and hope for a new era.

"Today, I am concluding my duties as the emperor," Akihito said as he stood in front of the throne, as other members of the royal family and top government officials watched.

"Since ascending the throne 30 years ago, I have performed my duties as the emperor with a deep sense of trust in and re-

See EMPEROR on Page 4

Japan's Emperor Akihito, second from right, with Empress Michiko, right, listens to Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, center, speak during the ceremony of his abdication at the Imperial Palace in Tokyo, Tuesday, April 30, 2019.

JAPAN POOL VIA AP

INSIDE

LOCAL
The 2019 Miss Marianas contestants undergo etiquette training for fine dining.

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NATION
Health officials are turning to police powers from the past to fight an outbreak of measles.

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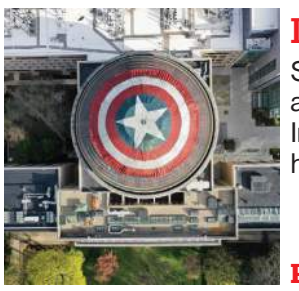

LIFE & STYLE
Student pranksters at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology have struck again.

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SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

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Local

Saipan chamber meeting today

The May general membership meeting of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce is today, May 1, at Pacific Islands Club Saipan's Charley's Cabaret. Acting Finance secretary David Atalig and program officer Farah Younis of the Northern Marianas Humanities Council as speakers for the event.

The initial findings of the prevailing wage survey will be discussed, as well as information about the SCC's upcoming Corporate Challenge and other Chamber activities.

The luncheon begins at 11:30pm, with the meeting portion starting promptly at noon. Tickets are $25 for Chamber members/$35 for non-members.

To RSVP six or more attendees, email Mercilynn Kaneshi Palec at administrator@saipanchamber.com, call 234-7150, or visit the third floor of the Marianas Business Plaza, Suite 315 in Susupe for more information. ***(PR)***

ZONING BOARD MEMBERS CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Members of the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation Judicial and Governmental Operations Committee pose with the nominees of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' for the CNMI Zoning Board: Tatiana Babauta, seated center, and former representative Francisco Aguon.

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Man who sued govt over crash directed to file new suit

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Superior Court has ruled that a man who failed to exhaust his administrative remedies before suing the CNMI government over his injuries and damage to his car in a vehicular accident in 2014 must file a new lawsuit instead of amending his complaint.

In his order on Monday, Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho ruled that a claimant must exhaust his administrative remedies before filing a Government Liability Act lawsuit against the CNMI government.

In this case, Camacho said, Lars Indalecio Palacios filed the lawsuit against the government even before exhausting his administrative remedies, making his complaint premature.

Because Palacios cannot cure his failure to exhaust his administrative remedies by amending his complaint, his motion to amend must be denied as futile, the judge said, and Palacios must file a new lawsuit.

Palacios filed the lawsuit against John San Nicolas in 2015 over a vehicular accident that happened along Chalan Pale Arnold Road on May 27, 2014.

According to the lawsuit, Palacios, who is a government employee, was traveling south on the inner lane of Chalan Pale Arnold and was turning left to the Commonwealth Health Center when San Nicolas, who was driving a government vehicle, hit Palacios' vehicle.

Palacios sued San Nicolas for reckless, careless, and negligent driving.

In January 2018, the court granted the CNMI government's petition to substitute San Nicolas as a defendant in the case, asserting he was acting within the scope of his job at the time of the incident.

In September 2018, the court dismissed Palacios' lawsuit without prejudice for lack of jurisdiction because he failed to provide a sum with his notice of claim as required by the Government Liability Act.

Palacios then submitted a notice of claim to the Office of the Attorney General, indicating a sum for monetary damages. Ninety days have passed since the OAG received the notice of claim but Palacios has not received any response.

Palacios now wants to cure his original complaint by requesting the court to allow him to amend his lawsuit.

The government moved to strike the motion to amend as immaterial because Palacios cannot cure his original complaint through an amendment but must file a new suit.

The hearing on the motion was held last Jan. 29. Matthew Holley argued as counsel for Palacios. OAG Civil Division chief Christopher Timmons argued for the government.

In his order Monday denying Palacios' motion to amend his complaint, Camacho found that federal case law on the issue to be persuasive.

Camacho said in this case, the court dismissed Palacios' complaint for lack of jurisdiction because he did not provide a sum with his notice to claim.

Camacho said that, pursuant to the general rule stated in the federal case law, Palacios needed to have exhausted his administrative remedies before filing his lawsuit.

The judge said Palacios' failure to exhaust his administrative remedies cannot be cured by amending the complaint.

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DEAN'S LISTER

Congratulations to Djaymarch Ong, center, for making it to the Dean's List of the University of Guam. Greeting comes from your proud mom and dad.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

New PH passports for releasing

The Philippine Consulate General in Guam, in coordination with the Office of Honorary Consul Eli Arago, will be releasing passports to those who renewed their passports last March 3, 4, and 5. You can pick up your new passport at Finasisu Terraces Apartment Bldg D, second floor, top of the Mini-Mart Store, Monday-Friday 9am to 5pm (12pm to 1pm, breaktime).

Bring your old passport and receipt when claiming your new passport. If someone else will pick up the passport, there must be an authorization letter from the applicant. For any inquiry or details, call Mel Santos at 233-6293. ***(PR)***

GCC board meeting set

The Guam Community College board of trustees monthly meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 7, 2019, at 12pm, in the President's Conference Room, located on the second floor of the Administration Building, GCC campus. Individuals requiring special accommodations, auxiliary aids, or services should contact 735-5597. ***(PR)***

JKPL, Bookmobile closed for inventory

The Joeten-Kiyu Public Library and Bookmobile Outreach Services will be closed for five days for inventory, from May 14 to May 18, 2019. All penalties for items due during this period will be waived. We ask the public for your cooperation in utilizing library programs and services in the days not covered by inventory.

For the latest news and events, visit the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library's website at www.cnmilib.org and like and/or follow JKPL's Facebook page, @joeten kiyu. Follow the library on Instagram @joetenkiyu, Pinterest @ Joeten Kiyu, and Snapchat @JoetenKiyu. The Joeten-Kiyu Public Library's hours of operation are as follows: Tuesday-Friday, 10am-6pm, Saturday, 9am-4pm, and closed Sundays, Mondays and holidays. ***(PR)***

Military training in open ocean, at Warning Area 517

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. Navy will conduct an open-ocean exercise on April 30 from 8am to 6pm at the following coordinates 13° 542"N/144° 379"E.

The Navy will conduct training at Warning Area 517 on April 30 and May 1, from 11am to 11:55pm.

It is recommended the public, fishermen and marine tour operators monitor the Coast Guard broadcast notice to mariners for advisories. It is also recommended the public, commercial pilots, fishermen and marine tour operators stay clear from the area during the dates and times indicated.

W-517 begins south of Guam and extends south-southwest in international waters.

These types of trainings are designed to enhance the readiness of military personnel. ***(PR)***

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‘Enough time to act on governor’s request’

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Marianas Public Land Trust chair Martin B. Ada believes they have enough time to decide whether to grant or deny the Torres administration’s request for a line of credit with MPLT.

During yesterday’s MPLT board meeting on Capital Hill, Ada said the some of the trustees met with Gov. Ralph DLG Torres to discuss the details of the planned line of credit.

“The governor laid down the issue why they need $15 million. That’s the gist of the meeting. We are in a financial crisis, so they [government] need the money,” he said.

House Speaker Blas Jonathan T. Attao (R-Saipan) has already introduced House Bill 21-44 to authorize the MPLT line of credit and help the government address its bond obligations and payment to the NMI Settlement Fund.

In a letter to Ada, Torres said that Attao’s bill would establish a line of credit between the CNMI government and MPLT. The governor asked MPLT to grant them a $15-million line of credit that will coursed through the Department of Finance with an interest rate of not less than 5 percent per annum.

“The passage of H.B 21-44 will allow the Commonwealth through [Finance] to enter into a credit facility in the form of a line of credit with MPLT. This line of credit will ensure that adequate funds exist at the disposal of [Finance] for purposes of paying debt such as bond obligations and [NMI] Retirement Fund settlement payments,” Torres said. “H.B. 21-44 pledges the fund which MPLT would distribute as interest income to the Commonwealth’s general fund… as security for MPLT’s issuance of a $15 million line of credit. Further, the legislation empowers MPLT to withhold interest income for debt service of principal and interest starting in fiscal year 2020 in the event that the [DoF] does not fully repay the loan.”

Ada said that MPLT will still need to discuss the the governor’s letter and request.

“I don’t think that we can make a decision right there and then. …The process takes more than that. We got the opinion of two other trustees on the letter of request and all the issues surrounding the investment fund—the MPLT fund.”

Ada said they would wait for the opinion of trustees Pedro R. Deleon Guerrero and Maria Frica T. Pangelinan before the board makes a decision. Both are currently off-island and are scheduled to return this weekend. He then called for another meeting next Wednesday so they could further discuss the issue as an entire board.

Peter Q. Cruz (Tinian) and Vianney B. Hocog (Rota) are the other MPLT trustees.

Acting Finance secretary David Atalig said in last week’s public hearing for his confirmation at the Senate that cash needs to be infused to the CNMI government in order to meet the bond obligation payment of $4.2 million that is due today and about $2.9 million for the Settlement Fund due yesterday.

Atalig, in an email to *Saipan Tribune*, reiterated the need for the government to meet its obligations. The process is being stalled, however, by a delay in the release of Federal Emergency Management Agency reimbursements to the CNMI.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

600K

From Page 1

Palacios signed a proclamation yesterday in the governor’s office’s conference room declaring May as Tourism Month.

Torres said his administration continues to push the CNMI’s recovery efforts from Super Typhoon Yutu, while making sure that the tourism industry remains a priority and gets the needed support.

“Regardless of what occupation you hold, it is our obligation to make sure that we treat tourists with the highest respect [and] with the highest welcoming greetings because they are our No. 1 bread and butter,” he said.

The governor believes the reason why tourists come to the CNMI is because of its culture. Responding to a question from the Japanese media a couple of days ago why Skymark Airlines Inc. chose to fly to the CNMI instead of Hawaii or Guam, Torres replied that he believes the CNMI is a lot more beautiful than any place in the world, with beautiful beaches and many activities such as scuba diving, golfing, fishing, and other things.

“But in the end, it is really our culture that really stands out,” said Torres, adding that Tinian and Rota also have unique tourism sites. “And that what makes us more unique than any [other destinations].”

He encouraged tourists and the community to check out and enjoy the Taste of the Marianas every Saturday in May and all other activities being lined up by MVA for the whole month.

Palacios said tourism pays his and Torres’ salaries and that holds true for all people in the conference room—representatives, legislators, or firemen. That means saying that “tourism is everybody’s business” is not just a trite marketing line, but is the reality in the CNMI.

“We need to reflect on that a little bit and reset our minds to help support in any way we can, any little contribution, that we can collectively continue to enhance and protect this industry,” Palacios said.

He said the administration will fully support MVA, being the driver of the CNMI’s tourism industry.

MVA board chair Marian Aldan-Pierce said tourism is the only economic driver in the CNMI and that she believes the Commonwealth is very lucky that tourists still come to the islands despite the fact that the Commonwealth is still recovering from Super Typhoon Yutu.

“The Chinese were the first ones to come back. So, to them we are very grateful,” Aldan-Pierce said.

With respect to the Korean market, Aldan-Pierce said the CNMI is still recovering very slowly, but that the entry of Korean flights in April and May should be good.

As for the Japan market, she said everybody is very excited with the entry of Skymark Airlines in the CNMI, which is being seen as the Japanese market’s return after 14 years.

“It is the first direct flight from Narita in 14 years [and] that’s a long time,” she said.

Aldan-Pierce was in Japan last week, where she met with Skymark officials and travel agents. She said the travel agents, who have been partners with the CNMI for the last 40 years, are also excited that they are finally coming back with flights from Japan.

Aldan-Pierce said the CNMI is also very lucky that MVA has a strong partnership with businesses and executives here.

“They are very supportive. They always say yes we will help,” she added.

Aldan-Pierce said she is also happy with the presence and participation of the Southern High School’s My WAVE Club at the proclamation signing.

She said the idea behind the formation of My WAVE Club is that the people understand and appreciate the tourism industry as the economic driving force in the CNMI.

“We decided it was very important that we start when you guys are young. That’s why the May Wave Club was formed,” she said.

New managing director

Any talks about the appointment of an MVA managing director is premature, Aldan-Pierce said, because the board has not decided on what to do yet.

Until such time that a decision in the matter is made, MVA deputy managing director Judy Torres is the acting managing director.

Aldan-Pierce did not comment on the report that former Commonwealth Health Care Corp. chief financial officer Priscilla Iakopo will be appointed to the post.

Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang said they appreciate what the MVA is doing to promote the CNMI all over the world. In turn, his office is trying its best “to beautify our islands as much as possible, so when tourists get here, they will leave with a good impression and encourage other people to come back and visit the islands.”

As of yesterday, Apatang said, there were close to 900 Japanese tourists all over the island.

“We want to see more Japanese coming back,” he said, hinting that he will be promoting the CNMI when he leaves for Japan to forge a sister-city agreement there.

Torres said the proclamation signing reminds people that all have a part to play in creating an abundant tourism industry.

“As we all know, tourism is our bread and butter in the Marianas, or shall we way, our red rice and barbecue?” Torres said.

EMPEROR

From Page 1

spect for the people, and I consider myself most fortunate to have been able to do so. I sincerely thank the people who accepted and supported me in my role as the symbol of the state,” Akihito said in his last official duty as emperor.

His reign runs through midnight, when his son Crown Prince Naruhito becomes the new emperor and his era begins.

■■■

Akihito has visited some of the harshest World War II battlefields in the Pacific. He visited the U.S. territory of Saipan in 2005, the western Pacific nation of Palau in 2015 and the Philippines in 2016.

■■■

Naruhito will ascend the Chrysanthemum throne on Wednesday. In a separate ceremony he will receive the imperial regalia of sword and jewel as well as imperial seals as proof of his succession as the nation’s 126th emperor, according to the official palace count, which historians say could include mythical figures until around the 5th century.

Many people gathered outside the palace compound hours before the abdication ceremony despite unseasonably wet and cold weather, and even though they are not allowed to look inside.

“We came because today is the last day of (the emperor’s era of) Heisei, and we feel nostalgic,” said Akemi Yamauchi, 55, standing outside the palace with her husband.

CHCC

From Page 1

CHCC board member representing Tinian, vacated his position in January 2019. Dr. Larry Hocog, the Rota representative on the board, resigned last year.

Last April 5, 2019, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres appointed Corrine H. Santos to serve as the Tinian representative on the CHCC board; on April 11, 2019, he appointed Elizabeth A. Paeda as the Rota representative. In an interview last week, Torres did not mention an appointment for the Saipan representative.

However, Torres noted that his office did receive a notice from Ogumoro about the non-participation of Hocog in the board. Torres noted that the letter also included the fact the Hocog resigned from the board last year.

The CHCC board was completed in mid-June 2017.

In her resume submitted to Torres’ office, Santos said that she had worked at Oregon’s Portland VA Medical Center’s purchase care division as a voucher examiner from November 2011 to February 2015.

Before that, she worked with the Tinian Division of Youth Services as a juvenile probation officer from September 1999 to November 2007 and as a special assistant for social affairs for the office of Sen. Henry DLG San Nicolas from October 1995 to September 1996 on Capital Hill.

At CHCC, she was a developmental physical therapist from August 1991 to December 1991.

The Governor’s Office has yet to provide the professional history of nominee Paeda.

Both Paeda and Santos, if confirmed by the Senate, would serve as Tinian and Rota representatives on the CHCC board until June 22, 2021.

US MINT

From Page 1

District of Columbia, and the five U.S. territories, including the CNMI.

The AMP quarter is one of the five America the Beautiful quarters to be released this year. The other national parks that will be featured in the quarter are the Lowell National Historical Park in Massachusetts, War in the Pacific National Historic Park in Guam, San Antonio Missions National Historical Park in Texas, and the Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness in Idaho.

The 133-acre AMP itself is a tribute to the thousands of American and Marianas people who perished during the Marianas Campaign of World War II. Three distinct locations within the park pay tribute to the lives lost: the Memorial Court of Honor and Flag Circle, the Marianas Memorial (dedicated to the indigenous people who died), and the carillon.

According to U.S. Mint director David Ryder, the AMP quarter also pays tribute to Saipan. “I think this coin does a fabulous job in doing just that, as Saipan is a wonderful place. It is definitely rich in history and I think the American public is going to like and save this coin,” he said.

“…It’s one of the most beautiful ones we’ve done so far. …We are looking at producing quite a few million and they are circulating coins so we manufacture several billion quarters a year and this will be part of the manufacturing,” he added.

The reverse (tails) design of the quarter shows a young Chamorro girl in traditional attire and wearing a *mwar-mwar* standing and resting her hand on the plaque that pays tribute to the lives lost in the Marianas campaign of World War II. Inscriptions on the quarter are “AMERICAN MEMORIAL PARK,” “N. MARIANA ISLANDS,” “2019,” and “E PLURIBUS UNUM.”

Approximately 5,204 names of American and Marianas people who were killed when American forces seized the CNMI from Japanese control are inscribed on a memorial at AMP.

“The American seizure of the Northern Mariana Islands hastened the end of the war but came at a price of thousands of casualties. May this quarter stand as a tribute to the memories this park preserves.” Ryder said.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

McDonald's donates $3K to MMAC

Members of the Marianas March Against Cancer steering committee pose for a photo with McDonald's Middle Road staff.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

McDonald's CNMI and Guam has donated $3,000 to Marianas March Against Cancer, the signature fundraiser of the Commonwealth Cancer Association that's taking place this weekend.

According to McDonald's CNMI general manager Joe Ayuyu Jr., McDonald's has always supported community events like MMAC as a way to give back to the community that supports them.

"My parents always remind me and my sisters that it's the community that makes us successful so we try as much as possible to give back to the community throughout the year. My parents are very much into anything community-related and events that bring families together. It's consistent with what we try to do here at McDonald's for our customers. We want to do that, we want to support organizations and causes that do that," he said.

MMAC steering committee co-chair Carline Sablan said they are appreciative of the McDonald's donation because the money goes directly back to support services needed by cancer patients.

"Each of our sponsors supports the Marianas March Against Cancer in different ways, whether it be through a monetary donation to the event, in-kind support or providing services to us—each helping to make the event a success. The MMAC Steering Committee thanks McDonald's of Saipan for signing on again this year as a title sponsor with a generous $3,000 donation. We are extremely appreciative of McDonald's support in raising much needed funds for vital support services for cancer patients and their families, cancer awareness and prevention programs and much more," she said.

On behalf of the committee, Sablan invites the community to come out and support the cause this weekend.

"Join us on Friday, May 3, to Saturday, May 4, at the Commonwealth Ports Authority Airport Field from 6pm to 6am. Let's join together to celebrate our survivors, appreciate caregivers, remember loved ones lost to the disease and fight back cancer," she said.

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3 The Annual Percentage Rate (APR) for Purchases is a variable rate of 18.00% as of 5/1/19. The introductory fixed APR for balance transfers is 2.99% for the first eight billing cycles following the opening of your account for balance transfers made within 30 days of account opening. After that, the variable rate will apply. The fixed Cash Advance APR is 18.00%. The fixed Penalty APR is 18.00% and may be applied if you make a late payment. The Minimum Interest Charge will be no less than $1.00. The Balance Transfer Fee is either $5 or 5% of the amount of each Balance Transfer, whichever is greater. The Convenience Check Fee is either $5 or 5% of the amount of each check, whichever is greater. The ATM Cash Advance and Over-the-counter Cash Advance Fees are $10 or 5% of the amount of each Cash Advance, whichever is greater. There are no Foreign Transaction Fees. The annual fee is $0 for an introductory period of one year and $99 per year thereafter. Additional limitations, terms, and conditions apply. To learn more about the United Credit Card from First Hawaiian Bank, visit FHB.com/United.

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Entry blanks that have been photocopied, computer-generated, or improperly reproduced by any other method will not be eligible or accepted. First Hawaiian Bank is not responsible for lost, late, illegible, incomplete, misdirected, or insufficient postage-due entries, which will not be honored.
NO PURCHASE NECESSARY. Void where prohibited. Sweepstakes starts on May 1, 2019, and ends on June 30, 2019. Open to legal residents of Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands ages 18 years or older. Visit 2MillionMiles.com for official rules and complete details.

Member FDIC

Supporting personal growth

Learning valuable skills like how to network, starting meaningful conversations, and presenting your best foot forward is what true etiquette is all about.

As an avid supporter of the CNMI's youth, Pacifica Insurance Underwriters, Inc. joined this year's 2019 Miss Marianas pageant as a main sponsor and helped put together a fine dining etiquette training for the six lovely contestants at Hyatt Regency Saipan's Giovanni Restaurant.

Stellar Marianas etiquette director Jaki Fujihira and pageant coach Ernie Molina led the training that showcased the discipline of fine dining, how to greet and discuss various topics with fellow guests and hosts.

Fine dining is usually part of the experience at the world's international pageants and, as an ambassador of the Commonwealth, the islands' queen is expected to know these intricate details and traditions.

"We deeply appreciate the amazing support of Pacifica Insurance president Mrs. Shirley Sablan and her team. This was an unforgettable experience for all of us and a skill that is most useful for our young women that could be applied in their formal experiences," said Fujihira.

2019 Miss Marianas contestants Junalyn Billedo, Riane Capalad, Merly Fernandez, Sharon Palacios, Shannon Sasamoto, and Dierra Palacios enjoyed a five-course meal prepared by the culinary team at Hyatt Regency Saipan.

"Helping our young women find their best potential and experience personal growth is a wonderful testament to the kind of commitment we share in ensuring we are represented well, not only in competition but also as young professionals," said Sablan.

"We are happy to share in this positive experience and help a dedicated nonprofit organization, Stellar Marianas, offer these worthwhile lessons to our delegates," she said.

The contestants also practiced conversation starters, listening, asking, and answering questions while keeping etiquette in mind at the dining table.

"This is one part of the journey our young delegates are on as they prepare for the 2019 Miss Marianas pageant this June. We have several activities and events lined up to help them only become more confident, stronger and ready for the world's stage," said Fujihira.

Follow their journey at @missnorthernmarianas or www.facebook.com/stellarmarianas. ***(PR)***

FRANKIE DELEON GUERRERO

From left, 2019 Miss Marianas contestants Shannon Sasamoto, Dierra Palacios, Merly-Ann Fernandez, Junalyn Billedo, Sharon Palacios, and Riane Capalad enjoy a stroll in Hyatt Regency Saipan's gardens before a dinner hosted by Pacifica Insurance.

FRANKIE DELEON GUERRERO

Pacifica Insurance president Shirley Sablan, seated second from right, Underwriter/Broker Department supervisor Samantha Sikayun, seated left, Stellar Marianas president Laila Boyer, seated second from left, and national director Crispin Deleon Guerrero, seated right, join pageant coach Ernie Molinas, top left, and Beauty & Etiquette directors Jacqueline Fujihira and Jacky Santos, and the 2019 Miss Marianas contestants at Giovanni's at the Hyatt Regency Saipan.

USNS *Guam* is christened in Okinawa

By GRADY FONTANA
MILITARY SEALIFT COMMAND FAR EAST

ASAN, Guam—Military Sealift Command christened the high-speed transport USNS *Guam* during a ceremony at Naha Military Port in Naha, Japan, last April 27.

Earlier plans to christen the ship in Guam were thwarted by unforeseen typhoons in the region and a high tempo by the ship's schedulers. Due to additional operational requirements on the ship, effort to have the christening in Guam was not possible.

Key speakers were U.S. Ambassador to South Korea Harry B. Harris Jr.; Guam Rep. Michael San Nicolas; Lt. Gen. Eric M. Smith, commanding general, III Marine Expeditionary Force; Rear Adm. Robert T. Clark, deputy commander of MSC; and USNS *Guam*'s sponsor, Bruni Bradley, a 25-year Navy veteran and wife of Harris.

"The Navy has a glorious history of naming ships after heroes, epic battles and key places in the U.S.; and this ship is no exception," said Harris, who is also a former Navy admiral. "Guam is the site of one of the bloodiest battles in the Pacific campaign [of World War II].

"Although most of the greatest generation are no longer with us, we can hear their stories of duty, honor and courage. Their spirits walk among us, and with us, and call out to us. Today, we've answered their call with an innovative ship, which serves as a reminder of their heroism and a tribute to a beautiful place called Guam," he added.

The ceremony was capped by a time-honored tradition, when Bradley officially declared the *Guam* christened prior to breaking a bottle of sparkling wine against the ship's side railing of the main deck.

The *Guam* was acquired by the Navy from the Department of Transportation in 2012 and underwent renovations before it became operational in late 2017 when it replaced the Westpac Express as a III MEF asset.

USNS *Guam* is an aluminum catamaran designed to be fast, flexible and maneuverable, even in austere port conditions, making the vessel ideal for transporting troops and equipment quickly.

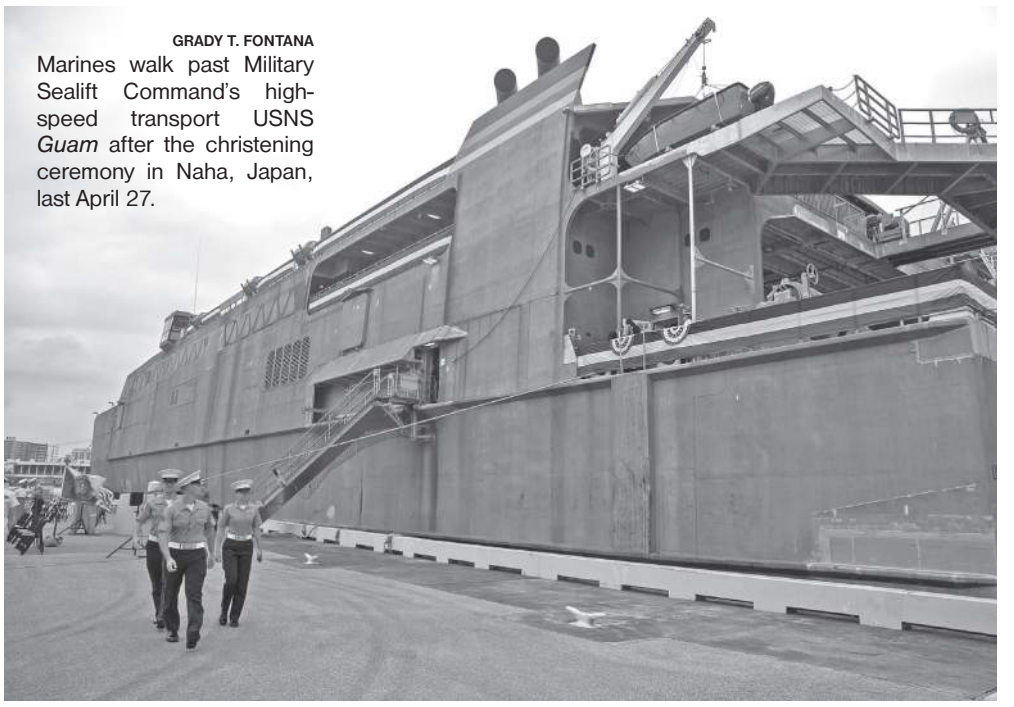
According to Smith, the value of USNS *Guam* to the III MEF is that the ship can be quickly reconfigured for any cargo requirement: from supporting humanitarian assistance and disaster relief; to transporting Marines, sailor and equipment throughout the Indo-Pacific theater.

"This ship is vital to us," said Smith. "It carries the most precious cargo that there is, the Marines and sailors of the III MEF."

USNS *Guam* is preceded in service by the patrol gunboat USS *Guam*, which was renamed Wake in 1941 and captured by the Japanese later that year, the Alaska-class large cruiser USS *Guam* in service 1944-1947, and the Iwo Jima-class amphibious assault ship USS *Guam* in service 1965-1998.

MSC operates approximately 125 non-combatant, civilian-crewed ships that replenish U.S. Navy ships, conduct specialized missions, strategically preposition combat cargo at sea around the world and move military cargo and supplies used by deployed U.S. forces and coalition partners. ***(PR)***

GRADY T. FONTANA
Marines walk past Military Sealift Command's high-speed transport USNS *Guam* after the christening ceremony in Naha, Japan, last April 27.



12 enhance their sales skills

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce and Island Training Solutions held their first full-day training of the year last Wednesday, April 24, at the Latte Stone room of Kanoa Resort.

Twelve individuals participated in an full-day training on Jeffrey Gitomer's bestselling *Little Red Book of Selling*, facilitated by Gitomer certified adviser Jim Arenovski.

The seminar covered relationship building, self-branding, value-advertisement marketing, innovation, and creativity. Participants learned strategies on how to improve their sales by simply breaking their day-to-day habits and changing their mindset.

Participants practiced their new sales approaches through hands-on activities.

Amongst the participants was Shayne Villanueva (Aon Insurance), Dorothy Dela Cruz (Aon Insurance), Evelyn Lapuz (Century Insurance), Maria Socorro Huliganga (Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan), Sunshine Saures (Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan), Patrick Lau (JZ Group), Eric Xu (JZ Group), Anastasiia Inos (SWFT Translations), Edralynn Matagolai (The Airstream Café), Marah Javier (Triple J Five Star Wholesale), and Mark Tesero (Triple J Five Star Wholesale).

Participants also got a hard copy of *Little Red Book of Selling* and certificates of completion.

For more information on trainings provided by the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, call (670) 234 -7150 or email coordinator2@saipan-chamber.com. ***(PR)***

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Commonwealth Judiciary
Guma' Hustisia, Iimwal Aweewe, House of Justice
P.O. Box 502165, Saipan MP 96950
Telephone (670) 236-9770 Facsimile (670)236-9797

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP19-JUDICIARY-02

SUBMISSION DATE: May 10, 2019 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"ELEVATOR REPAIRS"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE CASHIER WINDOW, WINDOW #1, LOCATED AT THE FRONT GUMA HUSTISIA / IIMWAL AWEEWE / HOUSE OF JUSTICE, SUSUPE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTIONS 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL PROPOSALS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/s/ ALEXANDRO C. CASTRO
CHIEF JUSTICE

/s/JOHN T. VILLAGOMEZ
JUDICIARY PROCUREMENT OFFICER

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Commonwealth Judiciary
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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP19-JUDICIARY-03

SUBMISSION DATE: May 17, 2019 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"STUCCO REPAIRS"

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THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTIONS 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL PROPOSALS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/s/ ALEXANDRO C. CASTRO
CHIEF JUSTICE

/s/JOHN T. VILLAGOMEZ
JUDICIARY PROCUREMENT OFFICER

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Commonwealth Judiciary
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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP19-JUDICIARY-04

SUBMISSION DATE: May 17, 2019 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"FENCE REPAIRS"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE CASHIER WINDOW, WINDOW #1, LOCATED AT THE FRONT GUMA HUSTISIA / IIMWAL AWEEWE / HOUSE OF JUSTICE, SUSUPE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTIONS 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL PROPOSALS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/s/ ALEXANDRO C. CASTRO
CHIEF JUSTICE

/s/JOHN T. VILLAGOMEZ
JUDICIARY PROCUREMENT OFFICER

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Commonwealth Judiciary
Guma' Hustisia, Iimwal Aweewe, House of Justice
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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP19-JUDICIARY-05

SUBMISSION DATE: May 17, 2019 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"ROOFING INSULATION REPAIRS"

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THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTIONS 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL PROPOSALS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/s/ ALEXANDRO C. CASTRO
CHIEF JUSTICE

/s/JOHN T. VILLAGOMEZ
JUDICIARY PROCUREMENT OFFICER

IT&E rallies behind causes

Telecommunications firm IT&E supported several causes and organizations this past March and April: the Commonwealth Cancer Association's Marianas March Against Cancer; the "Art in the Ville" art show in Guam; the 23rd Annual Hyatt Regency Golf Classic to benefit the Make-A-Wish-Foundation of Guam and the CNMI, 500 Sails, NMI Rollers Basketball Association, Isla Montessori School, and 4H Marianas; the 38th Annual Flame Tree Arts Festival; the Saipan Chamber of Commerce Golf Tournament; and the 10th Annual 76 Paddles Against Cancer in Guam.

IT&E also supported the following: the medical needs of Guam children requiring surgery for cleft lip and cleft palate through the Dusit Smiles Golf Championship held on April 26 with a donation of $500; awareness for Autism and fundraising for resources for the HunterSpeaks organization through the documentary, *Blue Island*, with a donation of $3,000; showcasing Saipan through the 30th Tagaman Triathlon held last March 30 by the Triathlon Association of the CNMI and the Marianas Visitors Authority with a donation of $3,000; and efforts of Guam Cancer Care and American Cancer Society through Bank of Guam's IFIT Run and Block Party held on March 9 with a donation of $2,500.

Angela Rosario, director of Marketing and Product Development at IT&E, said: "Our partnerships with these organizations and support of the amazing work they do every day is grounded in our dedication to our community, our children, our culture, and the health of our people." ***(PR)***

IT&E
April 16, 2019
Pay to the Order of Commonwealth Cancer Association $8,700.00
Eight thousand seven hundred dollars
2019 Marianas March Against Cancer
EXPLORE YOUR WORLD
NON NEGOTIABLE

Telecommunications firm IT&E supports the Commonwealth Cancer Association through its signature fundraising event, Marianas March Against Cancer. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

IT&E
April 5, 2019
Pay to the Order of 38th Annual Flame Tree Arts Festival $6,000.00
Six Thousand Dollars Only
For Micronesia Sponsorship
EXPLORE YOUR WORLD
NON NEGOTIABLE

IT&E rallies behind culture and art through Saipan's 38th Annual Flame Tree Arts Festival from April 11 to 14. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

IT&E
April 5, 2019
Pay to the Order of 23rd Annual Hyatt Regency Golf Classic $3,500.00
Three Thousand Five Hundred Dollars Only
For Platinum Sponsorship
EXPLORE YOUR WORLD
NON NEGOTIABLE

The many beneficiaries of the 23rd Annual Hyatt Regency Golf Classic on April 27 on Saipan include the Make-A-Wish-Foundation of Guam and the CNMI, 500 Sails, NMI Rollers Basketball Association, Isla Montessori School, and 4H Marianas. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

IT&E
March 21, 2019
Pay to the Order of Saipan Chamber of Commerce Golf Tournament $1,000.00
One Thousand Dollars Only
For Hole In One Sponsor
EXPLORE YOUR WORLD
NON NEGOTIABLE

Telecommunications firm IT&E supports education through the Saipan Chamber of Commerce Golf Tournament last March 30, which raises funds for the Chamber's scholarships for high school, college, and vocational educational students, as well as for the organization's other community based projects. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Creativity and positive spaces for children through Mañelu's "Art in the Ville" art show in Guam on April 13. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Cancer research and assistance for patients through the 10th Annual 76 Paddles Against Cancer in Guam on March 17 (taking first place in the Radical division). CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In Re General Order

NOTICE TO CLAIMANTS AND
ORDER TO APPEAR

THE COMMONWEALTH JUDICIARY has in its possession certain third party funds, which have remained unclaimed for more than one year. According to court records, the following people may be entitled to have funds returned to them

Name	Case Name	Case Number
1. Jin Zhe Jun	CNMI-OAG/DOI v. Jin Bo	CV-03-0140
2. Yu Hua Li	CNMI-OAG/DOI v. Yu Hua Li	CV-03-0582
3. Li Hai Zhang	CNMI-OAG/DOI v. Yao Ping Zhang	CV-03-0607
4. Diana A. Agulto	CNMI v. Diana A. Agulto	TR-01-08127
5. Remino Atenina	CNMI v Tanio Rudolph	CR-04-0336
6. Lorenzo Guerrero	Andres Nepaial v. Juan Dlg. Manalo	FCD-05-0044
7. Hank Kenny P. Taitano	CNMI v. Hank Kenny P. Taitano	CR-03-0050
8. Jin Hu	CNMI-OAG v. Heng Xie Li	CV-06-0490
9. Alfredo F. Ngalongalo	CNMI-OAG/DOI v. Pepito Ebro	CV-06-0491

The aforementioned parties shall have until Monday, October 28, 2019 to make a claim with the Judiciary for the return of these funds. In order to make a claim, parties must complete a form, which is available at the Clerk of Court's window. Upon completion, parties shall submit the original and two photocopies of the form, together with two photocopies of a valid passport and/or government-issued photo identification, to the Clerk of Court located at Door Window 2 of the Guma Hustisia, Iimwaal Aweewe on Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. Claims must be submitted to the Clerk of Court and may be brought from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday of each week. Any funds belonging to the parties named above that remain unclaimed after Monday, October 28, 2019 may be forfeited and turned over to the Commonwealth General Fund. On November 08, 2019 all parties named above shall appear before Associate Judge Joseph Camacho in Courtroom 212A at the Marianas Business Plaza at 10:00 a.m. and await the call of his or her claim by case number and captioned parties. Parties must bring a copy of their claim form with them when appearing for this court proceeding.

ENTERED May 1, 2019.

/s/_____
ROBERTO C. NARAJA
Presiding Judge

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-19-017

ARCHEOLOGICAL MONITORING for LOWER BASE SEWER PHASE 1 – LIFT STATION AND FORCEMAIN

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified firms for the Archeological Monitoring of the Construction of Lower Base Sewer Phase 1 – Lift Station and Forcemain in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This work consists of monitoring and inspection of excavation works for the Lower Base Sewer Project. The consultant also will be required to document and create a final report acceptable by CUC and the CNMI Historical Preservation Office. CUC requires the Project to be completed as per the Request for Proposal (RFP) highlights from the date of award of contract.

This project is funded by a grant from the United States Economic Development Authority (USEDA) and the Department of Interior (USDOI). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from USEDA and USDOI.

Prospective Proposers must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The RFP may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $50.00 (non-refundable) for one RFP package set.

A Pre-Proposal Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **April 18, 2019 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building. Prospective Proposers are mandated to attend the Pre-Proposal Conference and Site Visit.

One (1) Original and Five (5) Hard Copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RFP-19-017 Archeological Monitoring for Lower Base Sewer Phase 1 – Lift Station and Forcemain, " to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on May 10, 2019**. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible Proposers who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing Proposers.

Proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Proposer due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Proposers are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This RFP and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page: https://marianaslabor.net/. The proponents shall be required to comply with all applicable CNMI and Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on April 22th 2019**, to Manny B. Sablan, CUC's Purchasing Administrator via email at manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Christie L. Sablan via email at christie.sablan@cucgov.org CUC's Purchasing Assistant and to Travis Spaeth, CUC's Project Engineer via email at travis.spaeth@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and waive any imperfection in the proposal in the best interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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Volume XXIX, Issue No. 85
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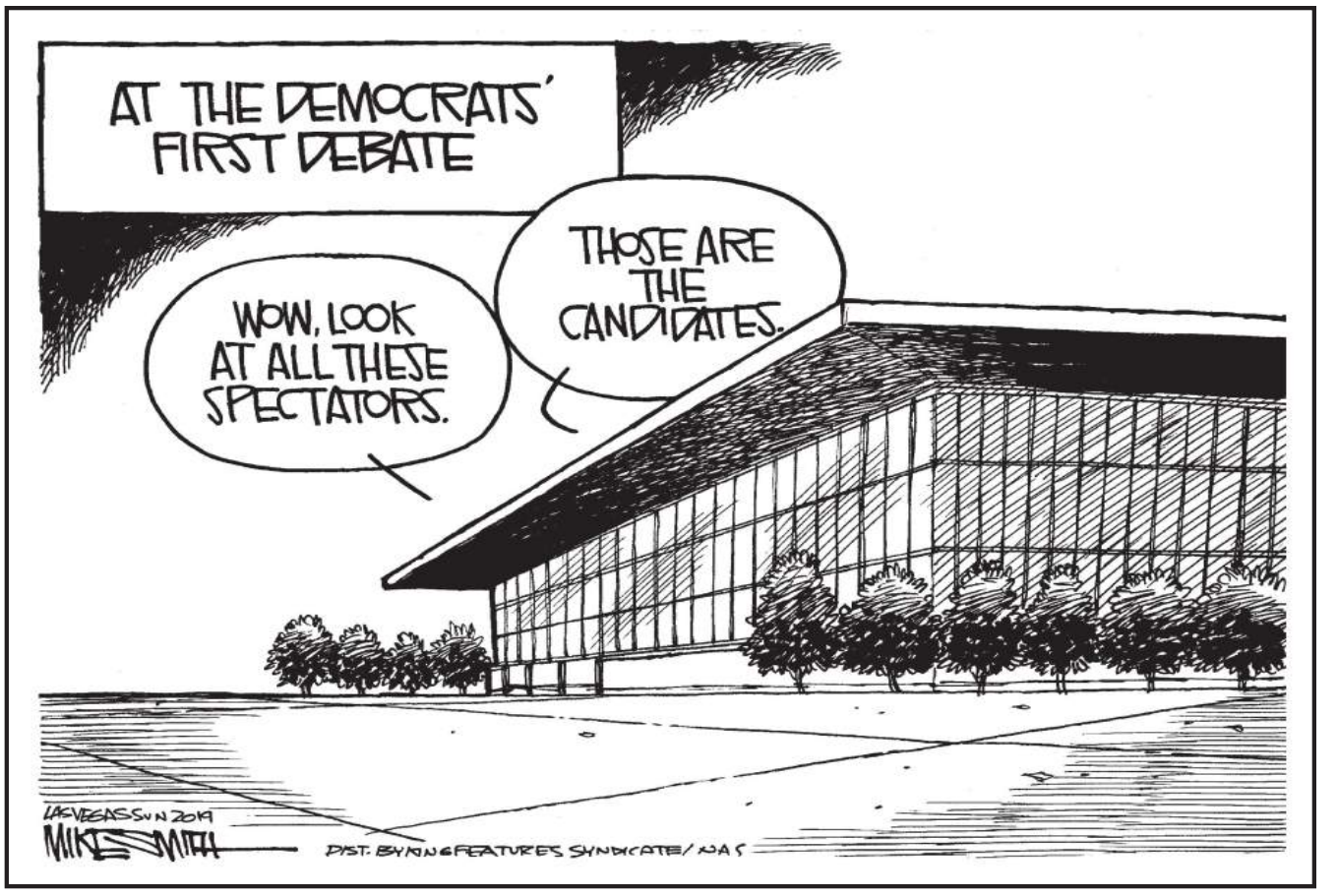


EDITORIAL

Dr. Trump's good medicine: The president gets it right on measles

"They have to get the shot." Three cheers for Donald Trump. No, we really mean it. The president is supposed to be the leader of the nation, and on Friday Trump took on the mantle in calling for Americans to get vaccinated as the country is suffering a measles outbreak, much of it here in New York.

Trump, who used to play a dangerous game of footsie with the anti-vaxxer kooks, instead became Public Health Officer No. 1. Vaccines do not cause autism. But measles do cause death.

Measles was once considered wiped out in the United States, but the kooks have had success in spreading their lies into the ultra-Orthodox Jewish community in Brooklyn and Rockland County and hundreds have contracted the disease.

Listening to real health experts, Trump said, "the vaccinations are so important. This is going around now. They have to get their shots." Yes. Yes. Yes.

Just like Mayor de Blasio has been focusing on measles in Williamsburg and County Executive Ed Day in Rockland, the president needs to help fight this health emergency, which has also produced a quarantine at two California universities. It's not just a harmless childhood ailment of red dots. Measles can, and does, kill.

And the vaccine is safe and effective. And mandatory for kids in school, except those claiming a religious exemption.

The drive in Albany to end that exemption is commendable. No faith believes in spreading disease, Judaism included. A deadly and very contagious plague that can be stopped with a completely benign medicine must be eliminated and stay eliminated. This horrible episode has proved one thing: That the vaccine does work and without it everyone is at risk.

The fight against measles isn't about finding a way to prevent the disease; we've long had the vaccine. It's about finding a way to make people get the shot, as Trump rightly says. Science has succeeded, but public enlightenment has failed. Trump's welcome words can only help rectify that.

(c)2019 *New York Daily News*

Keep climbing higher: Great economic numbers bolster Trump

If the economy was stumbling, we and everyone else would be taking it out on the president, whoever the president was. And if the economy was soaring, that president would be able to bask in the glory of a surging machine pumping out wealth.

See DR. TRUMP'S on Next Page

An unscientific survey of young people on 2020

By STEVE LOPEZ
Los Angeles Times

Robert Nava ordered his breakfast at Eggslut and sat down to relax Tuesday at Grand Central Market, only to be bothered by a stranger.

My apologies. It's what I do.

CNN had broadcast a town hall meeting Monday night in which five Democratic presidential candidates answered questions of interest to young people. It's early, and this is a guess, but I see President Trump winning a second term unless young people—who skew more progressive, more inclusive and desirous of radical change—turn out in greater numbers than they did last time.

So I wanted to see what some younger Angelenos had on their minds, and how they'd choose a candidate. Not that I conducted a remotely scientific poll, but hey, it's not as if the pros got it right last time.

Nava is a young man, by my definition, at 34. Last time around, he voted for Bernie Sanders in the primary and Hillary Clinton in the general.

The most important issue for Nava?

"A solid safety net," said the landscape architect, who owns his own small company. Nava graduated from college just as the recession was taking root and saw people lose homes and jobs. "That's what's going to get me out and voting for a candidate, and so I think education and healthcare are the two biggest issues."

The call for cheaper, better healthcare for everyone was a centerpiece of Trump's campaign, one of many promises that hasn't panned out. But Nava said Sanders, who called for a single-payer system four years ago and is now pushing Medicare for all, isn't necessarily his guy this time.

Nava wants to watch the process play out, but he's had an eye on Elizabeth Warren. He thinks she's onto something with her proposed tax on the country's wealthiest families and her calls to relieve college costs and student debt.

The one person he can't vote for, Nava said, is Trump.

"He's degraded the presidency," said Nava, "and he's divided us more."

It's fair to say, though, that some of the local youth are convinced that Democrats and Republicans are part of the same corrupt, failed system. I asked four young Eggslut diners for their thoughts on 2020, and they told me the country was run by a white oligarchy, then asked me to leave.

I don't necessarily disagree. But part of me wanted to ask why such rebels would stand in line at a joint that sells a coddled egg with grey salt and chives for nine bucks.

After Grand Central I headed for Chinatown, knowing that millennials always line up around lunch time for Howlin' Ray's Nashville Hot Chicken in Far East Plaza. Ray's was closed for maintenance, as it turned out, but there were still plenty of youngish folks around.

Kiel Servideo, 32, a screenwriter-turned-Uber driver, felt the Bern last time and thinks income inequality is "the issue of the day."

But he's not all-in with Sanders this time. He's intrigued by South Bend, Ind., Mayor Pete Buttigieg, and listens carefully for a political quality in short supply—authenticity.

"Cory Booker says all the right things, but something about him doesn't come across as authentic to me," said Servideo.

His buddy Nick Hanes, 37, is leaning Warren after being a Sanders supporter.

"I definitely have fear of a lefty Dem losing the center, but I'd rather have someone like Warren represent the party and make a pitch to the center on why she's better for them than Trump," said Hanes, an insurance underwriter.

At Grand Central, Anthony Marando and Jillian Bradley, both 29 and visiting from Atlanta, said they lean left on issues like healthcare, immigration and abortion. But they fault both sides for too much rhetoric and not enough problem-solving, and Bradley said she thinks voters are too inclined to be swayed by candidates who over-simplify things.

"With our age group and the internet culture, the meme culture, people are learning about things through a picture and a headline and basing opinions on that instead of reading the whole story ... and digging deep," Bradley said.

Lindsey Mysse, 38, offered what I thought was a dark yet hopeful, smart take on the state of the union.

"I didn't like the Bernie cult," the software producer said of Sanders' rise in the last primary. "Everybody was saying Bernie was going to fix everything, but they didn't want to change their lives, they just wanted someone to fix their problems."

Coming at us soon, he said, is a convergence of catastrophic problems that include climate change, a water shortage and antibiotic-resistant bacteria.

"I think America needs to change itself," Mysse said.

"I don't think we need a leader for us to be kinder, more environmentally sensitive, to walk more and drive less ... Americans need to become more sophisticated in our media consumption, more aware of how science works ... and not be led astray" by public relations fog screens and political misdirection.

Call me naive, but I like this blend of jaded idealism, and I'm putting my faith in the next generation to straighten out all the messes we old-timers have created.

Mysse emailed me later in the day to apologize for being so pessimistic, and listed all the things that give him hope.

"As far as who should be president," he wrote, "whoever is going to be the one who draws the clearest line (between) how our personal actions affect our neighbors, cities, country and world."

Guafen Ha`ilas

Man-atotpe sapet baratun suetdu, figan yan añglu` tiempu ni umatisa mas chinatsaga gi finattun ha`ilas. Tat ti hana` tostus gi enteru atkipelagu.

Namanman sa` todu asuntu manma-akude fuera de suetdu. Kulan mohon bakteria ni kumakanu` sensin tautau mina` machagu`e!

Haf` i motibu na in` ipus i dichu asuntu? Taya` siña in`chegue` ni figan yan añglu` tanu` lau guaha appottunidat para in` ina adelantun baratu na suetdun popble ni megai na empleau manpinalolo`pu` pa`gu. Haf` mohon?

Bai ekuñgug sin man-kritisisa gi maseha taimanu na in` petsige i asuntu. Homlu` diniskuten asuntun linahyan gi entre hita.

Didog: Guaha 15-mit na empleau gumagana suetdun popble pa`gu. Gaige este na suetdu gi entalu` $15-mit esta $42-mit gi sakan. Fuetsan pagamientu dinetetmimina ni numeron tautau gi kada familia. Lahyan familian natibu!

Makat na chanda gi añglu` na mattirun ha`ilas. Tat ti fumofofu gi halum didog na baratun suetdu kontra presiun nesessidat familia ni sige ha` mañgahulu`. Guaha esperansan satbasion?

Haf` planun hegsu` I Deni` uma-adelanta este na patte gi linala` tautauta siha gi enteru petlas iya Marianas? Michinatsaga na asuntu, komprendiyun.

Asuntu: Finagcha`e i asuntu seriosu na chanda ginen dos iran pagyu, hiniyuñg fiñkas Japones guine yan ma-utut lai federat siha ni presisu gi satbasion yan adelantun ekonomian iya Marianas.

Dispues de ta aregla tatte ha`anita `nai ta repara na taigue esta hagas mauleg yan ayudante na bisinuta. I Japones kanaha` todu kinalamtenta gaige ya listu man-ayuda. Taigue esta sa` ma`pus tatte gi tano`ña.

Bisita: Malagnus gi gaseta maribahan numerun bisita siha ginen Korea, Japon yan China. Kase 40 pot sientu tumunogña este na tropa.

`An homlu` ya mangai kepble tautauña man-buetta mage Marianas. Buente maribaha lokue` ekonomian niha mismu na gumuaha ditension.

Puede muna`lu tatte ya umakontinua man-mattu mage pot ayudu gi dikiki` na industriata bisita. Taya` otru pisun ekonomia guine soluke bisita.

Gi kada mayeñgyuñg haligen haf` sosopbla gi ekonomian i tanu` `nai umanog diskuiduta gi futtunata mismu. Taya` planu fuera ke masaulag lamañana!

Este na kinalamten ha affekta parehu fiñkas yan cho`chu` guine. `An guaha bisnis humuchum siha, pues menus fondu para i kaha. Gi mismu tiempu initut lokue` appottunidat cho`chu` siha. Obligasion manma-elihe umina!

Eleksion: Yangin guaha planumu sumustene puestomu kumu ma-elihe na offisiat publiku, kase nahuñg tiempu para ta tamtam haf` tinatemu para aseguridat na botasion.

Finenina, debi un` tachu gi haf` un` komple ni umadelanta suetdun popble gi 15-mit na empleau ni mangagama gi sinsonyan baratun suetdun popble.

Sin este, kase mauleg unna` kontentu hau na hagu mismu humuchum pettamu ya ti presisu manadan birada!

Guaha lehitimu rason-mu na un` upus `sino letke i asuntu? Siña un` esplika haf` na gueku katpetamu guine na asuntu? Na ti este mas presisu i bandan kualidat linala` familia ni mau`udai gi suetdu? Haf` taimanu na ti un` li`e este na asuntu lau hagas plantau gi menamu?

Niyog: Hu kamyu dos niyog para bai katdu dos medianu na gadau. Dispues hu sotne sunen Japon para gachoñgña. Paire na sena hombre haf` na tinichu` galagun chalan i sentada.

Dispues, hu taitai pot usun niyog para umana` tinagam chenut kanset ni ma-estutudia giya Austria. Anog ginen un` estudiu na gai chansa kontra kanset. Lokue`, ta choneg lañan niyog gi un` pot usun modetnu na Jergens. Lau haf` mas mauleg na laña ke niyog?

Nañgan ñaihon usun niyog estake malagnus haf` resuttan i estudiu. Lau usun niyog regulatmiente mauleg. Paire gi katdun guihan ke kuantu na latan Chicken Soup. Diberas!

Kuttura: Guaha `nai hoñga kanta pot proteksion kuttura. Lau haf` masasañgan na kuttura? Siña ta huñgug ginen fumafama i asuntu?

Rason na hu kuestiona i asuntu pot taya` establisau na definasion haf` kutturan Chamoru. Kada unu konsu hinassoña guine na puntu. Mampus asgun i asuntu ya kase propiu ta pula` haf` ta sasañgan na kuttura para benefisiun todu.

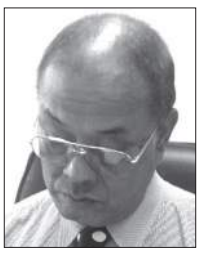
Kuttura matulalaika. Atan tatte antigu na Chamoru haf` relihioña. Taya`! Dispues ta embrasa katolisismu gi finattun Españot. Estague` kutturan relihion guine deste ayu na tiempu.

Unu ha` na asuntu siña sumustene kutturan natibu: haf` este na asuntu? Atan gi hilu` pinasensia sa` siempre in` danche sin ditension. Solu sahyan ni esta pa`gu fitme gi sinestenen kutturan natibu.

Gaige tutuhoña gi halum guma` familia. Estague` na sahyan fitme gi kareran famaguonta siha. Animu gi usuña siempre sumustene sustansian natibu gi anaku` na karera. Solu asuntu ni maput ta funas gi natibu!

Amiguhu: Umasoda`yu` yan un` mauleg na amiguhu gi fina` tenda. Esta mamahlau-yu` pot hu upus. Lau mattu gi mayaye i prohimu na tinilaika hagas pusturan fuetsudu giya guiya.

Gi hilu` konbetsasion felisitasion sige ham umachatge pot che`chu` pitbetserias antes. Palu kase pot esta lokue` amiguhu gaige gi ridondun tufai. Esta parehu ham ume`esuette yine`ase` pot no bai`n ma-estropeha ni asaguan mame. Ai na chaleg i hagas grasia siha antes.



By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the* Saipan Tribune.

LITERARY NOOK

By JOEY 'PEPE BATBON' CONNOLLY
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Joey "Pepe Batbon" Connolly is a retired teacher and has been named a poet laureate of Tinian. He has taught English in CNMI public schools for the past 30 years. He has also taught in Alaska, New Orleans, and Las Vegas.

Chocolate Rabbits *yan Flores Mayu*

How Funny! Chocolate Rabbits Lay Eggs Not Runny

For when ladies wore colorful hats to church on Easter Sunday and called them Easter bonnets, straw baskets were filled with decorated and colored hard-boiled eggs, yellow marshmallow baby chicks, jelly bean eggs, and a chocolate rabbit. A sonnet on it.

Chocolate rabbits covered with colored foil
what are those pastel things under their legs?
the results of pots of water brought to a boil
decorated shades of pastel colored Easter eggs
since when do rabbits lay eggs that aren't runny?
does a mother hen give birth to a little bunny?
eggs of course are symbols of birth and life
hard boiled they're eaten without a fork or knife
no chocolate or hard candy during Lent you fasted
while each little boy and girl in slumber sleeps
the Easter egg hunt over you fill an Easter basket
with jelly bean eggs and yellow marshmallow peeps
peel back the foil peel the egg shells for egg salad
tell an Easter bunny about this Easter tradition ballad.

Author's Note: Written April 21, 2019 on Easter Sunday morning before I even got out of bed as visions of Easter bunnies, chocolate eggs, and jelly beans ran through my head.

The Writes Rites Rights and Lefts of Spring

Dedicated to flores Mayu and all other May flowers that beautify our post-Super Typhoon Yutu landscape. Thanks for coming back.

Poets write about spring and fill thousands of books
its glorious growth warm Spring rains and thick mud
fresh dandelion greens picked taken home to cooks
a calf milks mother's teats as mother cow chews her cud.
Rites of Spring are experienced world wide by youth
falling in love walking and holding hands in the rain
learning that love doesn't always require the whole truth
at least for now there is always time later to explain.
Those Right turns in springtime the sunflower follows
practicing heliotropism as the sun makes its daily arcs
warming robin's red breast and nests of barn swallows
as Johnny-jump-ups, crocus, and tulips flower in the park.
So what is left for Spring is revealed after April showers
all those inevitable and incredibly beautiful May flowers.

Author's Note: Written 8:15am on April 30, 2019, the last day of April 2019.

The Trump economy powers on

By JON HEALEY
Los Angeles Times

Even President Donald Trump can't seem to stop the Trump economy from surging forward.

The U.S. economy grew at a healthy 3.2 percent annual rate in the first three months of the year, according to a preliminary estimate from the Bureau of Economic Analysis on Friday. The growth estimate, which may yet be revised, was surprisingly strong; as recently as April 1, economists were predicting a desultory quarter that barely moved the GDP needle. It's also a bit of a rebound from the fourth quarter of 2018, when growth sagged to a 2.2 percent annual rate.

Before you pop the champagne corks, consider that the source of growth wasn't ideal. The BEA credited "an upturn in state and local government spending, accelerations in private inventory investment and in exports, and a smaller decrease in residential investment." Aside from the increase in exports, those aren't indicators of growth to come.

Nor is it the 4 percent growth that Trump promised on the campaign trail. Yet, it's another indication that the economy's pace has picked up under Trump, especially over the past 12 months.

Trump tweeted: " Just out: Real GDP for First Quarter grew 3.2 percent at an annual rate. This is far above expectations or projections. Importantly, inflation VERY LOW. MAKE AMERICA GREAT AGAIN!"

The president naturally touted the GDP news, and some of his policies have helped. In particular, the tax cuts and the enormous federal budget deficit have pumped in fuel, although the stimulus will wear off at some point. (Note that in his tweet, he subtly called on the Federal Reserve to lower interest rates—"inflation VERY LOW"—and provide yet more stimulus.)

Meanwhile, other Trump policies are tapping the brakes on growth—most notably, the tariffs he has slapped on global steel and aluminum imports and the trade war he has launched with China. Tariffs repeatedly threatened on car imports would raise prices and further dampen auto sales here—even by domestic automakers, which rely on global supply chains. By the way, sales of autos and auto parts declined in the first quarter by 0.5 percent.

Regardless, the economy continues to be the best thing going for the president's reelection campaign. Democrats can no doubt find millions of voters who aren't basking in the warmth—too great a share of the new wealth is being captured by the sliver of Americans who already have plenty. But it's hard to persuade the country at large that times are tough and people are suffering when the tide is rising pretty steadily now, and has been rising for so long.

This dilemma has been faced by many a challenger to an incumbent president, and it's often insurmountable. The only incumbent to lose in recent decades was George H.W. Bush, and that's because the economy went into recession halfway through his term.

That's why Democrats are likely to appeal to voters' sense of fairness by focusing on income inequality, while also shining a spotlight on the financial problems faced by big groups of Americans—the staggering amount of student loan debt, for example, or unaffordable medical bills and insurance premiums.

There's no shortage of people who feel they've been left behind in this long expansion. But as employers pay higher wages, households save more, home values climb and the stock market hits new peaks, the rising tide is lifting more and more boats. Including the one carrying the Trump campaign.

DR. TRUMP'S

From Page 10

Well, things are decidedly on the upside, with the gross domestic product jumping 3.2 percent in the first quarter of 2019, far above what economists generally expected. The December-January government shutdown didn't put a dent in it as feared and the decade-long expansion is roaring along.

So, take a bow, Donald Trump. You'd get the blame in bad times and you get the props in good times.

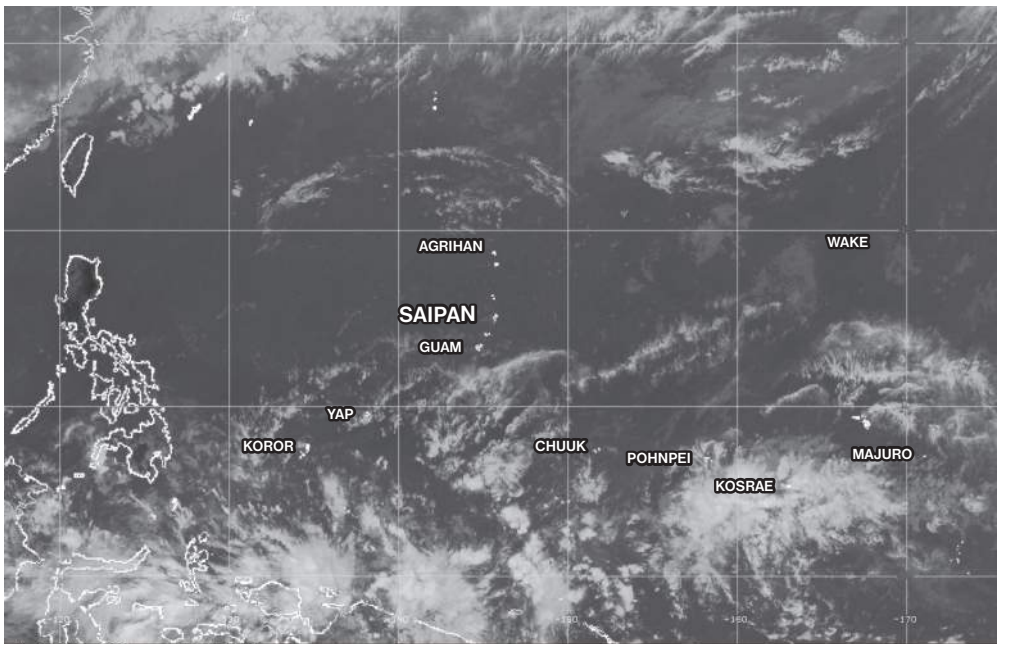
(c)2019 *New York Daily News*

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated light showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated light showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated light showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated light showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated light showers.
89° 77°	89° 78°	89° 78°	89° 78°	89° 78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 5:55 AM, TUESDAY, APRIL 30, 2019

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Skies are partly cloudy with isolated showers across the Marianas, with moderate trade winds. Radar winds are about 15 kt up to 6000 ft. Seas remain between 4 and 6 feet at the Guam buoys.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Showers	86° / 77°
Palau	Showers	85° / 77°
Yap	Partly Cloudy	88° / 79°
Chuuk	Showers	86° / 81°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Sunny	64° / 54°
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	72° / 54°
Hong Kong	Showers	81° / 73°
Honolulu	Sunny	84° / 71°
London	Cloudy	63° / 46°
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	67° / 55°
Manila	Partly Cloudy	99° / 81°
Melbourne	Cloudy	70° / 55°
Miami	Windy	82° / 75°
New York	Cloudy	55° / 52°
Osaka	Showers	70° / 54°
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	68° / 48°
Busan	Showers	66° / 55°
Rome	Mostly Sunny	66° / 48°
Salem	Mostly Cloudy	88° / 64°
San Francisco	Sunny	61° / 50°
Seoul	Sunny	73° / 46°
Tokyo	Rain	72° / 55°
Washington, DC	Thunderstorms	77° / 66°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
05:39 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.81
12:06 PM	LOW TIDE	0.65
5:40 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.58
11:55 PM	LOW TIDE	0.50

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:54 AM	6:34 PM
Thursday	5:53 AM	6:34 PM
Friday	5:53 AM	6:34 PM
Saturday	5:52 AM	6:35 PM
Sunday	5:52 AM	6:35 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	3:27 AM	3:33 PM	-
Thursday	4:05 AM	4:21 PM	-
Friday	4:42 AM	5:10 PM	-
Saturday	5:21 AM	6:00 PM	-
Sunday	6:02 AM	6:53 PM	-

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF APRIL 27, 2019

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	9:15am	9:56am	Daily
UA105	6:25pm	7:05pm	2, 4

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

SKY801	4:45pm	7:30pm	Daily up to May 3

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 3, 5, 7
7C3451	3:30am	6:30am	4

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

TW308	1:35am	5:20am	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:35am	8:25am	Daily
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:50am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:30am	11:00am	1
JD396	4:50pm	7:55pm	4

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:30am	7:55am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	9:15am	8:50pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA117/183	9:15am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA117/193	9:15am	10:40pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	1:50am	5:15am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:40am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	5:35am	8:25am	1
UO43	5:50am	8:40am	3, 5, 7
UA117/159	9:15am	9:50pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	7:30am	8:12am	Daily
UA104	4:50pm	5:31pm	2, 4

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

SKY01K	10:30am	3:15pm	Daily up to May 3

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	2, 4, 6, 7
7C3452	9:35pm	2:30am+1	3

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
TW307	7:00pm	12:35am+1	2, 3, 5, 6
TW307	7:05pm	12:35am+1	1
OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:50am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:05am	3:30pm	4
JD395	9:35pm	5:00am+1	7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:55pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	3:55pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA192/174	9:45pm	8:12am+1	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA184/174	10:25pm	8:12am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/174	11:30pm	8:12am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:15pm	00:15am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:25pm	1:20am+1	7
UO42	9:25pm	4:20am+1	2, 4, 6
UA116/174	10:45pm	8:12am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

AG's Cup speech competition this Friday

The 35th Attorney General's Cup Speech Competition will be held this Friday, May 3, at 9:30am at the Hyatt Regency Saipan ballroom, the former Sandcastle.

Eight high schools will be participating in this year's competition: Dr. Rita Inos High School, Eucon International School, Grace Christian Academy, Marianas High School, Mount Carmel High School, Saipan Southern High School, Tinian High School, and Kagman High School.

According to Attorney General Ed Manibusan, the competition provides the CNMI's high school students with the opportunity to research an issue that affects the Commonwealth, form a position on the issue, and showcase their voice and passion on the topic.

This year's topic focuses on the legalization of cannabis in the CNMI.

Specifically, it asks the questions: Is the passage of Public Law 20-66 a cure or a curse for the Commonwealth? Will it help or hurt the CNMI in the short term or the long term?

In preparing their speech, the students are asked to consider the following:

1) Cannabis is still illegal federally; discuss how this could affect production and consumption of cannabis in the CNMI. How has it affected production and consumption in other jurisdictions?

2) What types of regulatory systems have been developed in other jurisdictions that allow recreational cannabis use?

3) What have been the positives and negatives associated with recreational cannabis use in jurisdictions that have legalized its use?

"The passing of Public Law 20-66 on Sept. 21, 2018, made for a historic, yet, contentious topic in the CNMI," said Manibusan.

The public is invited to attend this event. ***(PR)***

EPA settles with Guam companies for violations of stormwater discharge

GUAM—The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has reached an agreement with two Guam-based construction companies to resolve stormwater discharge violations at a Tumon Bay construction site in Guam.

Both companies—Asanuma Kokuba Joint Venture and Nippo USA Inc.—will pay a settlement of $129,048 to resolve the violations in their Hotel Nikko expansion—the Tsubaki Tower project—which were found to lack controls to prevent discharge of pollutants into Tumon Bay and the Pacific Ocean in Guam.

"Our goal is to protect Tumon Bay and all of Guam's sensitive coastal waters for this and future generations," said EPA Pacific Southwest regional administrator Mike Stoker. "We'll continue to work closely with Guam EPA to ensure construction projects have the needed controls to keep pollution and sediment from washing offsite during rain storms."

An EPA inspection found the project's construction companies were operating without the required Clean Water Act stormwater construction general permit and had an unauthorized non-stormwater discharge from the construction site at the time of inspection.

EPA also found that the best management practices that were in place to control the discharge of stormwater were not properly implemented.

EPA said that, in addition to paying a settlement amount, both companies have already obtained the proper permit and corrected the site's stormwater controls.

Many construction sites have operations that disturb soil and include areas for maintenance and cleaning of equipment. Rainfall runoff flowing through such sites can pick up pollutants, such as sediment, metals from exposed steel, and other chemicals found in construction products, and transport them directly to nearby waterways, degrading water quality and damaging coral reefs.

Federal regulations require construction sites to obtain coverage under EPA's Stormwater Construction General Permit by implementing best management practices to keep pollutants out of stormwater, preventing non-stormwater discharges from the site, and following a site-specific stormwater pollution control plan.

The settlement is subject to a 30-day comment period before becoming final. ***(PR)***

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

P.O. Box 501220, Third Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. Nos. (670) 664-4282 Fax (670) 235-5131

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 19-030

Opening Date: Thursday, April 25, 2019
Closing Date: Until Filled

TECHNICAL MANAGER for OIL
(Previously Classified as PETROLEUM & COMPLIANCE MANAGER)

This is an ungraded position as required per Stipulated Order Number 1 (p. 19-21), Civil Case Number 08-0051, United States of America vs. Commonwealth Utilities Corporation and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

DUTIES: The incumbent is under the immediate supervision of the Executive Director or under the immediate supervision of a separate reporting structure proposed in the staffing plan required by Paragraph 17 SO. He/she is responsible for Environmental, Health, Safety, and Security compliance at the CUC facilities. The Technical Manager for Oil will have authority to make decisions for management and operations of the oil related items required by the Stipulated Order and will be primarily responsible for assisting the Executive Director in overseeing all environmental assessment and cleanup projects, all oil spill prevention initiatives, preparedness and response operations and compliance activities and deliverables, on a daily basis as required by the Stipulated Order. The TMO shall be the person responsible for maintaining regular contact with staff and contractors regarding Section 311CWA compliance issues and will support the Executive Director in management and operations decisions for the oil related items required by the Stipulated Order. The TMO will be in-charge of training, enforcement and in operational issues having to do with environmental, health, safety, and security compliance.

The Technical Manager for Oil further develops and executes programs to ensure effective identification and management of the Environmental, Health, Safety, and Security risks posed by CUC's Operations and businesses, as well as seeking opportunities to deliver both operational integrity and wider benefits to CUC via sustainability initiatives. The post holder is expected to enhance the management of risk in the CUC business stream and working with the Management team, use appropriate leadership processes and behaviors to mitigate risk. The role will encompass the implementation of EHSS programs including training, raising awareness, managing audits, reporting CUC EHSS compliance, providing technical expertise and support to CUC Management team as required.

The EHSS Officer must also be able to write, upgrade, certify, implement, and train CUC employees in any manual required by the Code of Federal Regulations in the conducting of CUC activities.

LOCATION: Power Generation, **SAIPAN, Northern Mariana Islands, USA**
SALARY: $56,439.00 to $91,349.50 per annum, Exempt (Commensurate with Qualification and Experience)
POSITION: One (1).
CONTRACT: Two (2) years; subject to renewal.

RELOCATION EXPENSES:
If hired from outside the CNMI, relocation expenses are negotiable; but they are not to exceed $5,000.00 for moving to Saipan and not to exceed $5,000.00 for moving away from Saipan. Receipts will be required for justification. Other conditions may be applicable.

POSITION REQUIREMENT AT ENTRY:
Completion of four (4) years of college, or its equivalent, with major work in engineering, science, industrial hygiene, or other field related to work with project management and/or environmental compliance, an one (1) to three (3) years of experience with oil spill prevention, preparedness and response, environmental assessment, construction oversight or power plant operations. Applicant must have an exceptional knowledge of U.S. Environmental laws and regulations pertaining to oil; knowledge and understanding of the contracting process. Good skills and experience working with regulators such as the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and U.S. Coast Guard.

In addition the Technical Manager for Oil must demonstrate the following: Proven management and communication skills, demonstrated ability to lead, motivate, and develop staff in the realm of health, safety, security and environmental awareness, experience with managing environmental and/or construction projects during periods of planning, design and construction. Further, the TMO should have experience with the following: oil, oily water, water sampling and testing, International Air Transport Association (IATA) certified to ship petroleum samples, oil storage, use, transportation and disposal; assessment and cleanup of contaminated sites; environmental compliance; development of statement of work, oversight of contractors; staff training and development; and federal oil spill prevention, preparedness and response requirements. Further the TMO shall have the experience in conducting various training seminars, and recordkeeping for training and deferral compliance.

SUBMISSION PROCESS:
To apply, please submit a resume, cover letter, a list of references, and a CUC Employment Application by one of the following means:

1. United States Postal Service, First Class Mail or Priority Mail*: Human ResourceS Office
   Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
   P. O. Box 501220
   Saipan, MP 96950-1220 USA

   *If you choose to submit via USPS, please still also fax "or" email your package.

2. Fax: 670-235-5131

3. Email: employment.applications@cucgov.org

4. Drop Off

You may submit your CUC Employment Application and/or resume at the Human Resources office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan. Applicants on the island of Tinian and Rota can drop it off at the Tinian and Rota Administration office. Application and resume can also be e-mailed to: employment.applications@cucgov.org

POLICIES:
The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation is an equal opportunity provider and employer and will not discriminate or tolerate discrimination against any employee or applicant in any manner prohibited by law.

It is also the policy of CUC to achieve a drug-free workplace and persons selected for employment will be required to pass a drug test which screens for illegal drug use prior to final appointment.

CUC IS AN AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
DPW/DLNR19-RFP-004

SUBMISSION DATE: JUNE 7, 2019 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

AGREEMENT TO FUND, REDESIGN, MAINTAIN AND OPERATE MARINA CONCESSION ON BEHALF OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Governor Ralph Dlg. Torres and Lt. Governor Arnold I. Palacios, through the Department of Public Works through the Department of Lands and Natural Resources (DLNR), are soliciting sealed proposals for the Agreement to Fund, Redesign, Maintain and Operate Marina Concession on behalf of the Department of Lands and Natural Resources, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated 2004 Ed. Proposal procedures shall be in full compliance with **§70-30.3-305** of the regulations.

Prior to being awarded a design contract, the firm or company must have or obtain a valid Certificate of Authorization (COA) from the CNMI Board of Professional Licensing. Information about obtaining a COA may be requested from Ms. Esther S. Fleming, Executive Director, at (670) 234-5897/5898 or fax (670) 234-6040.

The Scope of Work is available on or after **April 17, 2019** at the Department of Public Works, Technical Services Division, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center Office No. 214, Saipan.

A Ore-Proposal Conference is scheduled for 9:00 a.m. local time at the Department of Lands and Natural Resources Lower Base Conference Room. Questions regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing to Anthony T. Benavente, Secretary of Department of Lands and Natural Resources no later than 4:30 p.m. local time **May 24, 2019**.

SELECTION CRITERIA: This procurement is made in accordance with §70-30.3-305 of the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated 2004 Ed. Proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. Qualifications of the principal(s) and assigned staff – 25%
2. Experience of the firm(s) on similar type projects – 25%
3. Project Approach – 35%
4. Schedule of Completion – 15%

Discussion shall be conducted with at least three of the firms regarding the contract requirements and technical approach and selection made there from, in order of preference, of no less than three firms determined to be the most highly qualified to perform the services required. Fee proposals are solicited; however, this information shall not be considered in the selection of the most highly qualified Firms. Fee proposals may be used in determing a fair and reasonable price.

Proposers shall also submit a separate statement of qualifications (résumés and experience). The total proposal submitted shall be no more than twenty five (25) pages in length. Note that a firm, which submits a proposal as a prime consultant, *cannot* submit as a subcontractor on another proposal. However, only subcontractors may be included in multiple proposals by different consultants.

Sealed proposals must be marked **"DPW/DLNR19-RFP-004"**. For Proposers within the CNMI, one original and nine (9) copies of proposals must be submitted no later than 9:30 a.m. local time, **June 7, 2019** to the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement & Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascencion Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan. Proposers located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a Notice of Intent to Propose. Notices of Intent to Propose must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 9:30 a.m. local time, **June 7, 2019**, and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to **procurement@cnmidof.net**. For Proposers located outside the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of sealed proposals must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **June 7, 2019** and may be mailed to the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply at P.O. Box 510008 CK, Saipan MP, 96950 AND must be received no later than the close of business, **June 18, 2019**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes that will be charged to the proposer(s) awarded a contract for the project, including excise tax.

The government reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfections in any proposal if, in its opinion to do so, would be in the best interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of the CNMI government.

/S/ JAMES A. ADA
ACTING SECRETARY OF PUBLIC WORKS

/S/ JACK S. REYES
DIRECTOR,
PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

/S/ ANTHONY T. BENAVENTE
ACTING SECRETARY OF LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Business

Boeing CEO defends safety record amid 2 deadly crashes

The CEO of Boeing defended the company's safety record and declined to take any more than partial blame for two deadly crashes of its best-selling plane even while saying Monday that the company has nearly finished an update that "will make the airplane even safer."

Chairman and CEO Dennis Muilenburg took reporters' questions for the first time since accidents involving the Boeing 737 Max in Indonesia and Ethiopia killed 346 people and plunged Boeing into its deepest crisis in years.

Muilenburg said that Boeing followed the same design and certification process it has always used to build safe planes, and he denied that the Max was rushed to market.

"As in most accidents, there are a chain of events that occurred," he said, referring to the Lion Air crash on Oct. 29 and the March 10 crash of an Ethiopian Airlines Max. "It's not correct to attribute that to any single item."

The CEO said Boeing provided steps that should be taken in response to problems like those encountered by pilots of the planes that crashed. "In some cases those procedures were not completely followed," he said.

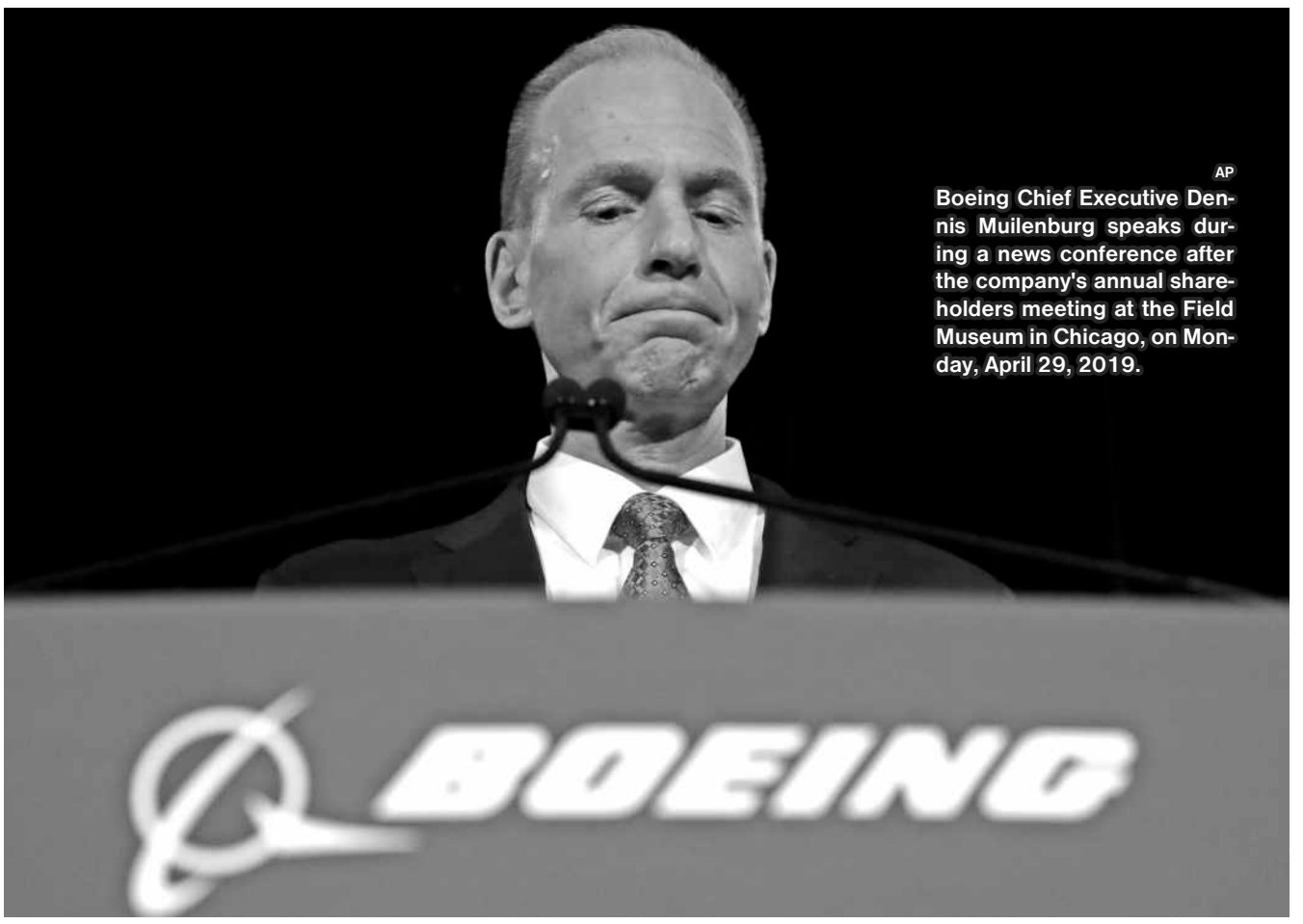
The news conference, held after Boeing's annual meeting in Chicago, came as new questions have arisen around the Max, which has been grounded worldwide since mid-March.

Southwest Airlines said over the weekend that Boeing did not disclose that a feature on the 737—an indicator to warn pilots about the kind of sensor failures that occurred in both accidents—was turned off on the Max. Southwest said it found out only after the first crash of the Lion Air Max. Boeing said the feature only worked if airlines bought a related one that's optional, and in any case the plane could fly safely without it.

Separately, published reports said that federal regulators and congressional investigators are examining safety allegations relating to the Max that were raised by about a dozen purported whistleblowers.

The Boeing event occurred on the same day that the Federal Aviation Administration convened a week-long meeting in Seattle of aviation regulators from around the world to review the FAA's certification of MCAS, a key flight-control system on the Max.

A spokesman said the FAA will share its technical knowledge with other regulators, but their approval is not needed before the plane resumes flying in the U.S.



AP

Boeing Chief Executive Dennis Muilenburg speaks during a news conference after the company's annual shareholders meeting at the Field Museum in Chicago, on Monday, April 29, 2019.

Deal or no deal? US and Chinese sides resume trade talks

WASHINGTON (AP)—Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin says he and other negotiators for the Trump administration should know this week or next whether they can reach a trade deal with China—or whether it's time to "move on."

Mnuchin and Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer are traveling to Beijing to resume talks Tuesday to try to end a yearlong trade war between the world's two largest economies. A Chinese team is scheduled to visit Washington next week for another round of talks.

"We hope within the next two rounds of (talks) in China and in D.C. to be at the point where we can either recommend to the president we have a deal or make a recommendation we don't," Mnuchin told Fox Business Network on Monday. "There is a strong desire for both sides to see if we can wrap this up or move on."

The two sides are locked in a standoff over the Trump administration's charges that Beijing steals technology and forces foreign companies operating in China to hand over trade secrets. China is pushing to make its companies world leaders in advanced industries like robotics and artificial intelligence.

President Donald Trump has imposed tariffs on $250 billion in Chinese imports; Beijing has retaliated by taxing $110 billion in U.S. goods.

During their previous rounds of trade talks, Mnuchin said, the two sides have "made a lot of progress," but "we still have more work to do."

The negotiators are still discussing how to ensure that Beijing would adhere to whatever commitments it makes, as well as whether the Trump administration would keep tariffs on Chinese imports to maintain leverage over Beijing. Mnuchin told Fox Business Network that an enforcement mechanism just "needs a little bit of fine tuning."

U.S. officials and businesses assert that China has failed to keep past promises concerning its trade practices.

"We are at a pivotal moment in these negotiations, with a real chance to hammer out a strong, enforceable bilateral trade agreement," said Linda Dempsey, vice president of international economic affairs at the National Association of Manufacturers.

American manufacturers, she said, "need a robust final deal to ensure they can compete on a level playing field."

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Burger King may sell plant-based burger across US this year

TORONTO (AP)—Burger King could soon be selling plant-based burgers nationwide. Restaurant Brands International, Burger King's parent, said Monday that a month-long test of the Impossible Whopper at 59 restaurants in St. Louis has gone so well that it will start testing it in additional markets. The company said it may expand sales nationally by the end of this year. The sandwich is made with a plant-based burger from Impossible Foods, a Redwood City, Calif.-based startup. Burger King is the first fast food chain to test the Impossible burger, but other chains are offering plant-based burgers from competitors like Beyond Meat. Chris Finazzo, president of Burger King's North American operations, said during an earnings conference call Monday that the Impossible Whopper was attracting new customers. He said the chain will sell the Impossible Whopper out nationally if reaction in other test markets "is a strong as it was in St. Louis." "It's really difficult to distinguish between the Impossible Whopper and the original Whopper," he said. Burger King wouldn't say which markets will get the sandwich next.

Robotics startup that made cute toy Cozmo shuts down

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—A startup that tried to advance the dream of intelligent robots in the home with its toy robot Cozmo is shutting down. San Francisco-based Anki says it's laying off its employees on Wednesday after failing to raise enough money to keep the business going. The company said last year it's sold more than 1.5 million products, including the car-racing game Overdrive and Cozmo, a playful robotic pet. Anki introduced its newest robot, Vector, last year. It's one of several high-profile makers of consumer robots to fold in the past year. Boston-based Jibo shut down less than a year after its squat, talking speaker made the cover of Time Magazine. California-based Mayfield Robotics also last year canceled Kuri, a roving home robot. News of Anki's closure was first reported by Recode.

Ex-Heartland Payment Systems CEO to pay $250K penalty to SEC

NEWARK, N.J. (AP)—The former chief executive officer of one of the country's largest payment processing companies has settled insider trading allegations with the Securities and Exchange Commission. Former Heartland Payment Systems CEO Robert O. Carr signed an order last week in U.S. District Court in Connecticut that requires him to pay a civil penalty of $250,000 to the SEC, according to a court filing. As part of the agreement, he didn't admit or deny any of the allegations in the SEC complaint. Carr was accused last year by the SEC of having given inside information and about $1 million to Kathie Hanratty, characterized as his girlfriend, to buy Heartland stock before the December 2015 announcement that the company was to be acquired by Georgia-based Global Payments Inc. The company sold for roughly $4 billion in 2016. An attorney representing Carr didn't return a message seeking comment Monday. The SEC lawsuit alleged the information gave Hanratty's investment a 25% gain.

STOCK PORTFOLIO

LEADING INDICATORS

S&P	DOW	NASDAQ
2,943.03	26,554.39	8,161.85
+3.15	+11.06	+15.46
+0.11%	+0.04%	+0.19%

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms

Australian Dollar	1.42	Hong Kong Dollar	7.84	Russian Ruble	64.46
British Pound	0.77	Indian Rupee	69.14	Singapore Dollar	1.36
Canadian Dollar	1.35	Indonesian Rupiah	14,012.92	South Korean Won	1,144.02
Chinese Yuan	6.62	Malaysian Ringgit	4.09	Swiss Franc	1.02
Euro	0.89	New Zealand Dollar	1.50	Taiwan Dollar	30.40
		Philippine Peso	50.99	Thailand Baht	31.90

Nation

Surge in US measles cases leads to extraordinary measures

NEW YORK (AP)—Quarantines in California. Fines in New York City. Orders for some people to avoid public places in Rockland County, New York.

As an outbreak of measles surges across the United States—with 704 cases this year and counting—some local health officials are trying to deal with contagion in unvaccinated communities by turning to extraordinary police powers from the past.

"Unfortunately, we are revisiting diseases from another generation," said Jason Schwartz, an assistant professor of health policy at the Yale School of Public Health.

"And now we are revisiting public health responses from another generation" in instances where vaccination programs have fallen short, he said.

Not long ago, measles was thought to be a problem that was mostly solved. The once-common disease became increasingly rare after a vaccine became available in the 1960s. In 2000, health officials declared the disease eliminated in the U.S., meaning that all new cases stemmed from infected travelers and not from homegrown transmission.

A decade ago, the cases numbered fewer than 100 a year. But they have been jumping since then, with the worst happening right now.

On Monday, U.S. health officials said the national tally already has eclipsed the total for any full year since 1994, when 963 cases were reported.

Twenty-two states have reported cases, but the vast majority have been in New York—mainly in New York City and in nearby Rockland County. Most of the New York cases have been unvaccinated people in Orthodox Jewish communities.

Three-quarters of those who caught the extremely contagious disease are children or teenagers.

No deaths have been reported this year, but 66 patients were hospitalized.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says this year's count includes 44 people who caught the disease while traveling in another country. Some of them triggered U.S. outbreaks, mostly among unvaccinated people. That includes the largest outbreaks in New York.

Measles in most people causes fever, a runny nose, cough and a rash all over the body. A very small fraction of those infected can suffer complications such as pneumonia and a dangerous swelling of the brain. According to the CDC, for every 1,000 children who get measles, one or two will die from it.

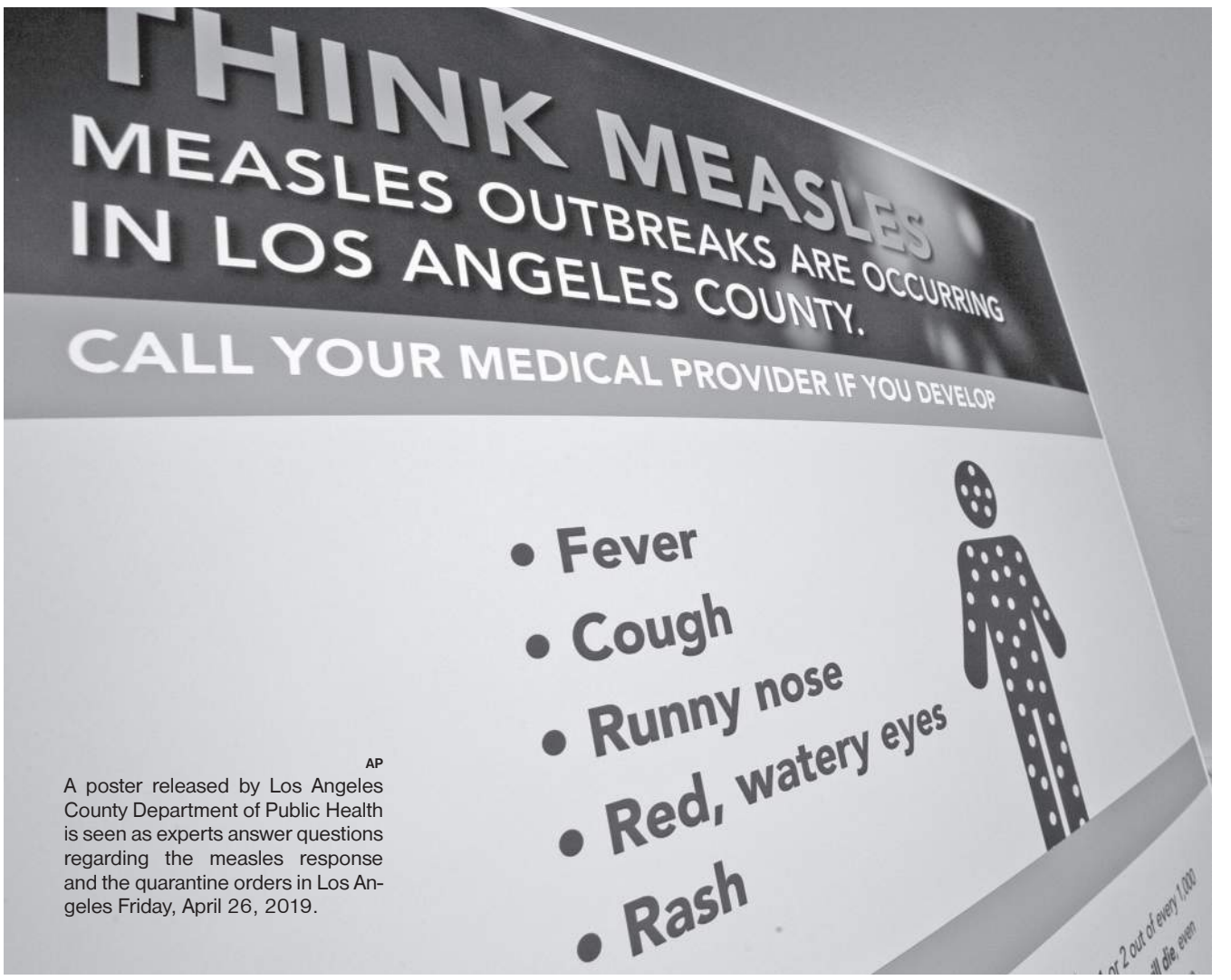
The return of measles may be an early warning sign of a resurgences of other vaccine-preventable diseases such as rubella, chickenpox and bacterial meningitis, some experts say.

In recent decades, health officials have relied on doctors to prod families to vaccinate their children against measles and other diseases. That push has been bolstered by requirements in every state that children be vaccinated to attend public schools.

But as vaccination rates have fallen in some communities and cases exploded, officials recently have taken more dramatic steps. In Rockland County, officials last month banned all unvaccinated children from indoor public places.

In New York City this month, officials ordered mandatory vaccinations in four Brooklyn ZIP codes, threatening possible fines of up to $1,000 for noncompliance. City officials said 57 unvaccinated people have received summonses. The city also has shut down seven religious schools that failed to exclude unvaccinated children, though five were later allowed to reopen after submitting a corrective plan.

Last week in California, more than 1,000 students and staff at two Los Angeles universities were quarantined on campus or sent home after cases began to appear. It was a limited order, and half already are out of quarantine, officials said Monday.



AP

A poster released by Los Angeles County Department of Public Health is seen as experts answer questions regarding the measles response and the quarantine orders in Los Angeles Friday, April 26, 2019.

'Everyone was her sister': Woman killed at synagogue is honored

POWAY, Calif. (AP)—Lori Kaye is believed to have thrown herself in front of her synagogue's rabbi to protect him from a gunman's bullets in a heroic move that epitomizes the life she led, her family and friends said Monday as they remembered a generous, vivacious and devout Jewish woman dedicated to spreading kindness and helping others no matter what.

Kaye's daughter, Hannah, said at her memorial service that she knows her mother would already have forgiven the man who took her life Saturday when he opened fire during Passover service at the Chabad of Poway synagogue, in this suburban city north of San Diego.

The memorial service for Kaye, 60, drew hundreds, including the three people wounded in the attack, federal and state lawmakers, a U.S. State Department envoy on anti-Semitism and a representative of the Israeli government, along with local city and police leaders.

Hannah said her mother would have loved to have seen such a large crowd so she could greet them all. She loved people, opening her home on every major Jewish holiday and making grand feasts.

Kaye was known to drive hours to visit a sick friend. She bought six months' worth of medication for someone without insurance. She left her freshly baked challah in mail boxes and on doorsteps all over town and was known to buy extra bagels and coffee during her morning routine to be able to give them away, her family and friends said.

Her mission was to make others enjoy life, just as she did. She gave to scores of charities.

That's why Kaye's daughter Hannah said she knows in her heart that her mother has forgiven the 19-year-old man accused of killing her. She would have responded with love.

"Her light has reached all crevices of this planet," Hannah Kaye said.

Hannah Kaye said she would miss singing in the car with her mother and dancing in the kitchen. She told her before she died that she was her best friend.

"Everyone was her sister, everyone was her trusted confidante," Hannah Kaye said. "Everyone was her friend."

The synagogue's rabbi, Yisroel Goldstein, lost one of his fingers in the shooting and comforted worshippers with his hand wrapped in blue bandages. Noya Dahan, 8, and her uncle Almog Peretz both suffered leg wounds in the attack but were released from the hospital and honored Kaye on Monday.

The U.S. State Department's new envoy on anti-Semitism told the congregation that her death will not be in vain. He said the Trump administration is committed to fighting evil wherever it lurks.

"I'm here to say we are at war with these people," Elan Carr said, vowing to fight anti-Semitism in "every city in the United States."

Experts: Human error may be cause of Seattle crane collapse

SEATTLE (AP)—Human error may have caused a crane collapse that killed four people and injured four others over the weekend, experts said Monday.

Based on videos of the collapse, they said it appears workers who were disassembling the construction crane had prematurely removed pins securing the sections of the crane's mast to each other, and that could explain why the crane toppled in relatively minor wind gusts.

"The reason this tower fell over is ironworkers and the people working on it did not follow the manufacturer's instructions for disassembling the crane," said crane accident investigator Tom Barth. "If the pins had been in, that crane would not have fallen over."

The crane's mast fell over on Saturday afternoon as workers were taking it apart. Sections landed on top of the new Google building where it had been used and on traffic below, striking six vehicles. Two ironworkers on the crane were killed, as were two people in cars—a retired city employee and a college freshman. Four others were injured.

Barth, who has been a tower crane operator, inspector and accident investigator for 38 years, said the only safe way to disassemble a tower crane is to do it by sections.

First, a line from another crane is secured to the top of the section being removed. Only then do workers remove the bolts that secure the section being removed to the one below it. The second crane lowers the section, Barth said.

The videos, including one from a dash camera in a car approaching as the crane fell, appear to show the sections of the tower crane separating cleanly, indicating the pins had likely been removed early, said Dave Kwass, a trial attorney who handles crane accident lawsuits.

"Where I would be starting as an investigator is getting a better grasp of what these two ironworkers who tragically were killed may have done in removing the pins," Kwass said. "What I'm seeing is a crane that looks as though the pins were popped all the way down to the pedestal section."

Kwass also suggested that the shifting weight of the workers at the top of the mast as they tried to grab the wind-swayed hook and line from the other crane might have helped push the mast over.

Early pin removal was blamed after a tower crane mast collapsed during disassembly in Dallas in 2012, killing two workers. Terry McGettigan, a tower crane specialist in Seattle, declined to comment on Saturday's crash, but he wrote a paper on the Dallas collapse warning about the danger of taking shortcuts by loosening or removing the bolts in advance.

Asia

After Sri Lanka blasts, government targets the niqab veil

KATTANKUDY, Sri Lanka (AP)—As Sri Lanka's long civil war ended in this once-contested region along its eastern coast, Muslim women eager to show their piousness began wearing the black niqab veil to hide their faces.

Now in the wake of Easter suicide attacks launched by Islamic State group-linked militants that killed more than 250 people, Sri Lanka's president has used his emergency powers to ban the practice previously unheard of in the island nation off the southern coast of India.

The ban, which took effect Monday, has been touted as a security measure. However, it criminalizes a practice more associated with an ultraconservative form of Islam previously unknown on the island, one that more closely adheres to the strict beliefs more common in Saudi Arabia.

It also can focus public suspicion on women who practice their religious beliefs peacefully, while the government and foreign diplomats say IS-linked militants armed with explosives still roam the island.

"As we have seen in Afghanistan and elsewhere, Muslim women will become a convenient cover for military action," wrote Nimmi Gowrinathan, a professor at the City College of New York. "Sri Lanka's pain from the Easter attacks should not be used to promote failed policies."

AP

A billboard displays garments worn by Muslim women, at a women's clothing shop in Kattankudy, Sri Lanka, Monday, April 29, 2019.

The niqab is a black veil made of thin fabric, often with a small opening from which a woman's eyes can peer out. It's far more concealing than the hijab, a scarf covering the hair that some Muslim women wear.

Most Islamic scholars and experts say a woman is not religiously required to cover her face with a niqab. However, strictly orthodox Sunni Muslims known as Salafists who advocate a literal return to centuries-old Islamic law believe women must cover their faces.

Such ideas previously were unknown in Kattankudy, a city 220 kilometers (135 miles) northeast of the capital, Colombo. But gradually, foreign money and ideas have entered the area.

The population grew more conservative, reflected in the current construction here of a massive copy of Jerusalem's famed Al Aqsa mosque, the third-holiest site in Islam. The alleged mastermind of the Easter bombings, Mohammed Zahran, also preached an increasingly extremist version of Islam in Kattankudy glorifying the killing of nonbelievers.

Sri Lankan Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe acknowledged to The Associated Press in an interview that authorities wanted to investigate the role of foreign money in the Easter attacks, saying in particular that money from Saudi Arabia had been going to religious organizations.

"Saudi Arabia or the Middle East has been the source of many of those funds and some of it has gone into these extreme organizations," Wickremesinghe told the AP on Thursday. "These are what we are investigating."

The Saudi government did not immediately respond to a request for comment Monday.

Sri Lankan President Maithripala Sirisena, who like other government officials faces widespread criticism over security agencies' failure to stop the bombings despite having specific prior warnings, banned the practice on Sunday. Under Sri Lanka's emergency regulations, invoked after the bombing, the measure took effect Monday.

Akihito begins abdication rituals as Japan marks end of era

TOKYO (AP)—Emperor Akihito began his abdication rituals at a Shinto shrine Tuesday morning as Japan embraces the end of his reign with reminiscence and hope for a new era.

Television images showed Akihito in a traditional robe entering the main Shrine of Kashikodokoro to report his retirement to the gods. The shine is where the goddess Amaterasu, said to be the direct ancestress of the imperial family, is enshrined. Only part of Akihito's shrine ritual was released to the public.

In a palace ceremony later in the day, Akihito will announce his retirement before other members of the royal family and top government officials.

His reign runs through midnight when his son Crown Prince Naruhito becomes new emperor and his era begins.

Naruhito will ascend the Chrysanthemum throne Wednesday. In a separate ceremony, he will inherit the Imperial regalia of sword and jewel, as well as Imperial seals as proof of his succession as the nation's 126th emperor in the world's oldest hereditary monarchy from the 5th century.

Hours before the abdication ceremony, many people were gathering outside the palace compound despite unseasonably wet and cold weather, and even though they are not allowed to look inside.

"We came because today is the last day of (the emperor's era of) Heisei, and we feel nostalgic," said Akemi Yamauchi, 55, standing outside the palace with her husband.

"We like the current emperor. He has worked hard for the people, he is very thoughtful, and kind to everyone," said her husband, Kaname. The couple came from Kyoto, Japan's ancient capital where emperors lived until about 150 years ago.

President Donald Trump, in a message to Akihito, expressed "appreciation" for his contribution to the two countries' close relations. Trump had a courtesy meeting with Akihito during his 2017 Japan visit and will be the first foreign leader in May to meet the new emperor.

Japanese television talk shows are displaying a countdown to the midnight transition, and programming was dominated by the abdication and looking back to major events of Akihito's era that included the 2011 tsunami, another deadly earthquake in Kobe in 1995 and the Tokyo subway nerve gas attack that shook Japan's sense of safety and confidence.

Security was extremely tight around the palace and across downtown Tokyo with thousands of police mobilized. Police had arrested a man Monday night on suspicion of placing a pair of kitchen knives last week on the school desk used by Akihito's grandson.

Akihito, 85, took the throne in 1989 and devoted his career to making amends for a war fought in his father's name while bringing the aloof monarchy closer to the people.

With his commoner-born wife, Empress Michiko, he reached out to the people, especially those who faced handicaps and discrimination, as well as those hit by disasters, illuminating the hardships of people often overlooked by society. Akihito was the first emperor to marry a commoner, one of many changes he brought to the palace. The couple also chose to raise their three children instead of relying on palace staff, and decided to be cremated upon their deaths in a smaller tomb side by side, also a tradition-breaking step.

"You can say that over the past three decades, Akihito has been Japan's chief emissary of reconciliation," said Jeff Kingston, Asian studies director at Temple University, Japan Campus. "In bringing Japan close to the people, he has also acted as consoler in chief ... and he has also been a strong advocate of the vulnerable and the marginalized in the Japanese society."

Afghan leader holds council to set agenda for Taliban talks

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Afghanistan's president opened a grand council on Monday of more than 3,200 Afghans seeking to agree on a common approach to peace talks with the Taliban, but the gathering may further aggravate divisions within the U.S.-backed government.

President Ashraf Ghani hopes to showcase unity at the four-day meeting—known as Loya Jirga—that brings together politicians, tribal elders, many prominent figures and others.

But Chief Executive Abdullah Abdullah, his partner in a unity government brokered by the United States after a bitterly disputed election in 2014, heads a list of no-shows.

Former President Hamid Karzai, who also is not attending, told The Associated Press on Monday that holding the council at this time risks "delaying and causing an impediment to the peace process." He also voiced concern that by sidelining his chief executive, Ghani could trigger suspicion that personal ambitions may have partly driven him to hold the Loya Jirga now.

"We are all here to talk about the framework of peace talks with the Taliban ... reaching a sustainable peace is very important to us," said Ghani in his welcome address to delegates.

Waving a copy of Afghanistan's constitution, Ghani lauded it as the most Islamic of constitutions—an apparent message to the Taliban who have suggested they want to negotiate articles within the charter, without specifying.

Ghani gave the chairmanship of the council to Abdul Rasool Sayyaf, a former warlord with past links to Osama bin Laden and the militants who took control of Kabul after the collapse of the communist government in the early 1990s. He is known for adhering to a strict interpretation of Islam, and refusing to meet with women .

During the 2002 Loya Jirga to devise Afghanistan's constitution following the U.S. invasion, it was Sayyaf and his political allies who pressed for the inclusion of a clause prohibiting any laws that are deemed unacceptable to Islam.

In several rounds of talks with the Taliban, U.S. envoy Zalmay Khalilzad has narrowed the gaps on a deal under which U.S. forces would withdraw in return for guarantees that Afghanistan not revert to a haven for international terrorists. But Khalilzad has struggled to get Afghans to agree on a roadmap for the country's future.

The Taliban have refused to directly talk to Kabul representatives, viewing the government as a U.S. puppet.

World

IS leader appears in video for first time in 5 years

BEIRUT (AP)—The shadowy leader of the Islamic State group claimed to appear for the first time in five years in a video released by the extremist group's propaganda arm on Monday, acknowledging defeat in the group's last stronghold in Syria but vowing a "long battle" ahead.

The man said to be Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi in the video also claimed the Easter Day bombings in Sri Lanka which killed over 250 people were "part of the revenge" that awaits the West.

Despite numerous claims about his death in the past few years, al-Baghdadi's whereabouts remain a mystery. Many of his top aides have been killed, mostly by U.S.-led coalition airstrikes. He is among the few senior IS commanders still at large after two years of steady battlefield losses that saw the self-styled "caliphate" shrink from an area the size of Britain to a tiny speck in the Euphrates River valley.

The video released by a media outlet run by the extremists, Al-Furqan, shows al-Baghdadi with a bushy grey and red beard, wearing a black robe with a beige vest and seated on the floor with what appears to be an AK-74 rifle propped up next to him. He is speaking with three men seated opposite him whose faces were covered and blotted out.

It is his first video appearance since he delivered a sermon at the al-Nuri mosque in the Iraqi city of Mosul in 2014. In that video, he appeared as a black-robed figure with a trimmed black beard to deliver a sermon from the pulpit of the mosque in which he urged Muslims around the world to swear allegiance to the caliphate and obey him as its leader.

Since then, he has only released audio messages through the group's media outlets.

In the video released Monday, al-Baghdadi acknowledged that IS lost the war in the eastern Syrian village of Baghouz, the group's last sliver of territory, which was captured last month by the U.S.-backed Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces. The fall of Baghouz marked the militants' territorial defeat and the end of their self-declared Islamic caliphate over parts of Syria and Iraq.

Al-Baghdadi said that the battle for Baghouz demonstrated the "barbarism and brutality" of the West and the "courage, steadfastness and resilience of the nation of Islam."

"This steadfastness shocked the hearts of the Crusaders in what increased their rage," he added.

Referring to the setbacks in battle, he said the "brothers" of the many fallen fighters "will avenge that, as they will not forget as long as they have blood in their veins, and there will be a battle after this one."

Al-Baghdadi called specifically on his followers to intensify attacks on France.

He made repeated references to current events, including Benjamin Netanyahu winning the elections in Israel and the fall of longtime dictators Abdelaziz Bouteflika and Omar al-Bashir in Algeria and Sudan.

Most significantly, he praised the recent attacks in Sri Lanka which he said have "pleased the hearts of Muslims," and said it is "part of the revenge that awaits the Crusaders and their followers."

The group has claimed responsibility for the suicide attacks on churches and hotels in Sri Lanka, and investigators are looking into the extent of the extremist group's involvement with the local radicalized Muslims who carried out the suicide bombings.

It is unclear when or where the video was filmed. Al-Baghdadi appeared to be in good health, although he spoke slowly and sometimes haltingly in the video.

AP

This image made from video posted on a militant website on Monday, April 29, 2019, purports to show the leader of the Islamic State group, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, being interviewed by his group's Al-Furqan media outlet.

After inconclusive vote, Spain's political future still hazy

MADRID (AP)—Spain's political future is no clearer after its third election in four years, with experts saying Monday that it won't be anytime soon before the muddle is resolved.

The incumbent prime minister, Pedro Sánchez, celebrated after his Socialist party won the most votes in Sunday's ballot. But Spanish politicians were doing the math on how Sánchez might survive the next four years without a parliamentary majority.

Spain's political right is fractured. The traditional conservative Popular Party suffered a humiliating defeat, while the election marked the rise of the far-right and a high point for an expanding center-right party.

The results did little to dispel government uncertainty in the eurozone's No. 4 economy.

It could take weeks or months for Spain's political future to become clear, said Andrew Dowling, an expert on contemporary Spanish politics at Cardiff University in Wales.

"If the Socialist party wants to stay in power for the next four years, it needs to find mechanisms of accommodation to ensure a degree of stability," he said.

Sánchez hailed his center-left party's victory as an antidote against a reactionary wave of national populism, pledging to help strengthen the European Union.

But the Socialist party won only 29% of the vote, and it still needs to make tough political decisions in order to govern.

With only 123 seats in the 350-seat Congress of Deputies, Spain's parliament, the Socialists will need to negotiate the support of smaller rival parties to pass legislation.

Even an alliance with the far-left, anti-austerity party United We Can—the most obvious potential partner—wouldn't give the Socialists the 176 seats it needs.

There are other options, however.

Deputy Prime Minister Carmen Calvo said Monday she believed the election result, which increased the Socialists' parliamentary seats from 85 to 123, was "more than enough" of a public endorsement to allow the party to rule alone as a minority government.

Spain's Socialists have also noted the success of the ruling Socialist Party in neighboring Portugal, where the minority government has an understanding with other left-of-center parties which provide support by often voting with it in parliament.

There is a difference, however: In Spain, the Socialist party came to power last June in a minority government and lasted less than a year after opposition parties, including Catalonia's separatists, refused to endorse its public-spending plan.

WORLD BRIEFS

146 migrants land in Italy in UN-organized Libya evacuation

ROME (AP)—A group of 146 asylum-seekers have arrived in Italy as part of a U.N.-backed humanitarian evacuation from Libya. The U.N. refugee agency says it's the fifth such evacuation since 2017, though previous airlifts have taken migrants to Niger and elsewhere. The group arrived Monday at a Rome military base. Dozens of the asylum-seekers are minors, many of whom are unaccompanied. They hail from Eritrea, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Ethiopia. Under anti-migrant Interior Minister Matteo Salvini, Italy has essentially closed its ports to migrants fleeing Libya aboard smugglers boats. Salvini's deputy, Stefano Candiani, said Monday that such evacuations, in which the U.N. screens asylum-seekers in situ, are the way people deserving of protection should arrive in Europe.

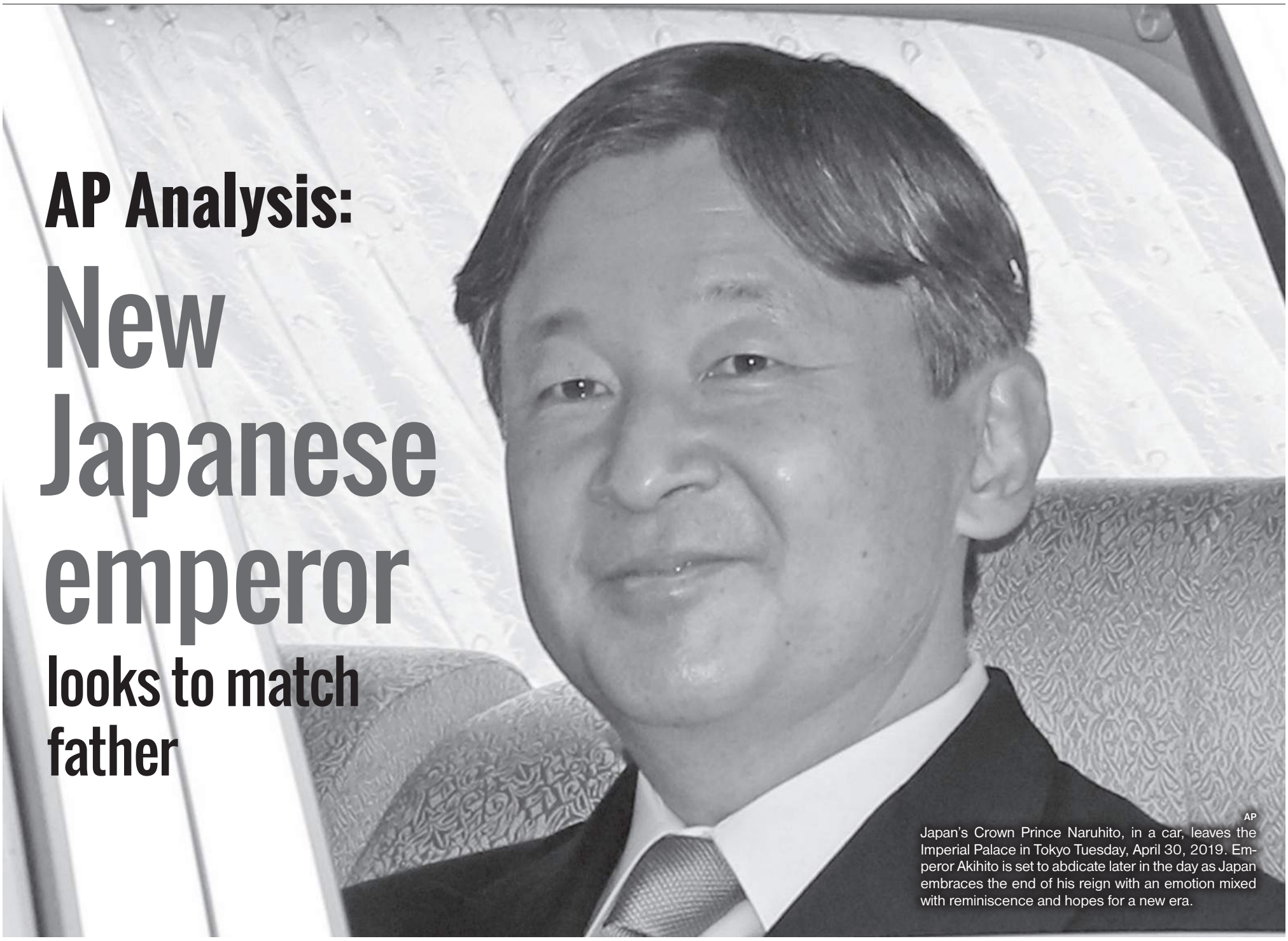
Russia probes alleged vote-rigging on child reality show

MOSCOW (AP)—A Russian state television network has hired a cybersecurity firm to verify the integrity of votes cast during the finale of a popular children's singing competition. Channel One says that "some anomalies" were noted in the tally, which saw 10-year-old Mikella Abramova win the season six finale of The Voice Kids with over 56% of the vote on Friday. Abramova, the daughter of a Russian pop star and businessman, received about 80,000 more votes than the runner-up. Channel One said Monday it hired Group-IB, a prominent Moscow cybersecurity firm that investigates cybercrime to verify the integrity of the vote. The company will audit the system's overall security, look for evidence that its SMS and telephone-based voting system was manipulated by bots, or signs that hackers altered votes.

Islamists in Sudan cancel rally over fears of violence

KHARTOUM, Sudan (AP)—Islamists in Sudan who were allied with ousted autocrat Omar al-Bashir say they have cancelled a planned rally for fear of violence from the protesters who drove him from power earlier this month. Ultraconservative preacher Abdel-Hay Youssef said in video posted on Facebook that the decision to cancel Monday's rally came after a meeting with Gen. Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo, known by the nickname Hemedti, who serves as deputy head of the ruling military council. Youssef says they received assurances from Dagalo and others that "Islamic laws will not be abolished." Sudan's Islamists played a key role in the 1989 coup that brought al-Bashir to power. An Islamist party says protesters attacked one of its meetings over the weekend, wounding dozens in clashes.

Focus



AP

Japan's Crown Prince Naruhito, in a car, leaves the Imperial Palace in Tokyo Tuesday, April 30, 2019. Emperor Akihito is set to abdicate later in the day as Japan embraces the end of his reign with an emotion mixed with reminiscence and hopes for a new era.

AP Analysis:

New Japanese emperor looks to match father

By FOSTER KLUG
ASSOCIATED PRESS

When Crown Prince Naruhito on Wednesday becomes, by official Japanese count, the 126th person to occupy the Chrysanthemum Throne since 660 B.C., he will be ceremonially armed with the glittering, ancient imperial regalia of sword and jewel.

Beyond the material trappings that accompany what the Japanese claim to be the world's oldest continuous hereditary monarchy, however, the new emperor will also receive a much more important, though less dazzling, inheritance: The deep and abiding respect his father, abdicating Emperor Akihito, has accumulated over his three-decade reign.

Replicating this bequest on his own will be Naruhito's greatest challenge.

The love many in Japan feel for 85-year-old Akihito was on full display when he made his last official visit to the winter sumo tournament earlier this year. A huge crowd of people leapt to their feet, whooping and smiling as they held up babies and waved flags.

This outpouring of emotion, however, was earned through much smaller moments, such as his visit in 2011, wearing a windbreaker instead of his usual bespoke suit, to comfort victims of a massive earthquake, tsunami and nuclear meltdowns. Entering a Tokyo shelter where evacuees were living, he knelt on the wooden floor and listened to the stories of survival and devastation.

"I feel grateful, and it has given me strength," one evacuee told reporters after the visit.

Akihito has no political power under the postwar constitution, and his official duties are heavy on photos, ceremonial visits and foreign trips, his every public move stage-managed by an aggressive and controlling Imperial Household Agency.

Yet, through his dogged outreach to his subjects in Japan, and his expressions of remorse to people in parts of Asia where his father's troops once rampaged, he has redefined the role of emperor and, in the process, made himself much more popular than any elected politician.

"Akihito is leaving some big shoes to fill for Naruhito," said Jeff Kingston, director of Asian studies at Temple University in Japan. "Akihito has opened the door, and Naruhito seems well placed to continue the work. The problem is you have to earn the moral authority; you're not given it."

Since Akihito took the throne after the death of his father, Hirohito, in 1989, his rule has in many ways been an attempt to come to terms with his father's much darker legacy.

Hirohito spent the first part of his long reign revered as a divinity; he ruled the next four decades stripped of his former powers, a less-than-enthusiastic figurehead who seemed at times bewildered by an economic boom that transformed Japan into a global force by the 1980s.

Akihito's abdication, planned since at least 2016, will ensure a smoother succession for Naruhito. But it's his blueprint for how to be a successful figurehead emperor that may be his best gift to his son.

Emperor worship before the war was largely imposed by militaristic governments, but Akihito won over the public on his own.

It has seemed, at times, like he has been on one long tour, ministering to his subjects time and again after a string of natural disasters, of which Japan is a global leader, and championing, among others, leprosy patients, the elderly and the disabled.

And he has visited World War II battle sites, including Okinawa and the Pacific island of Saipan, to pray for the dead on both sides and express his remorse for the war. A parade of more cautious, little-loved political leaders, by contrast, has tended to shy away from addressing the historical scars that can seem as fresh to Japan's wartime victims in China and Korea, for instance, as they were when the war ended in 1945.

Naruhito's struggle will be to now try to make the same connections his father mastered over the decades.

It will take work. For while there is strong public support for the imperial institution, it is not universally loved.

Many young people just aren't interested. On the left, there's often embarrassment that the country still maintains such an antiquated, socially elevated figurehead. And right-wingers have often found themselves (respectfully) cringing at Akihito's seemingly liberal inclinations.

Because of the barriers that the court throws up around the person of the emperor, it can be difficult to figure out just what sort of person Naruhito is. But there are some clues.

He seems able to laugh at himself: In his memoir, recently republished in English, of his time studying at Oxford in the early 1980s he writes of being banned from a bar because he was wearing jeans, and of almost flooding the student dormitory where he lived because he'd never done laundry before.

He's also loyal: He confronted palace officials over the treatment of his wife, who faced extreme pressure to produce a male heir.

Despite these qualities, though, it's fair to wonder what such a figurehead can contribute as Japan confronts the continuing economic malaise that has followed the boom years; increasing political friction with a rising China; and uncertainty about a fast-aging Japan's place in the region and world.

The answer might have less to do with Naruhito's particular qualities than with the idea of the throne.

Naruhito, when he's invested with the sacred imperial regalia on Wednesday, will become a living link to millennia of history, myth and tradition, a bridge to both the nation's ancient past and its uncertain future. For many, the throne represents a comforting symbol of nation, identity and stability in a constantly shifting world.

"Change is not always a good thing," said Daniel Sneider, a Japan expert and lecturer at Stanford University. "Sometimes the retention of social institutions and traditions is what preserves a society. The imperial institution lends a sense of dignity and civility to Japanese life ... and the Japanese often look to the institution for that sense of themselves."

Good Housekeeping

ON GARDENING:

Truffula Pink Gomphrena looks to be among hottest 2019 plants

By NORMAN WINTER
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Truffula Pink has everyone talking this year and is expected to be among the hottest plants at garden centers. It will be so hot you better buy it when you see it. Truffula is a new Gomphrena pulchella coming from Proven Winners. Like its taller sibling Fireworks, each iridescent hot pink bloom looks as though it is exploding with little yellow rays.

There is a good chance you don't know this species yet, all of which are treated as annuals. Gomphrena globosa has varieties like Ping Pong and All Around Purple as well as the dwarf Gnome series, then there is Gomphrena haageana, with varieties like the famous Strawberry Fields and Qis Carmine but the Gomphrena pulchella from Bolivia is different in the garden.

TNS
Fireworks gomphrena reached over 4 feet tall in Mississippi State University trials.

Fireworks, which I will always love, is like a thoroughbred racehorse reaching 4 feet tall with ease, laughing all the way at drought, endless rain and every other climate variation along the Mississippi that summer can throw at you. Truffula Pink will be just like that, but at only half the height. You'll have the same vibrant color, the same plethora of pollinators and a ton of flowers that seem to be floating on air.

Fireworks is not only tall but has the ability to go wide too, in fact up to 4 feet. This large plant produces scores of flowers that seem never ceasing; no other gomphrena can produce as many. I kept expecting to need to deadhead or remove spent flowers, but it never happened.

Truffula Pink will be like that except it will again reach only half that in width at 26-28 inches, Gardeners will not only delight in its beauty and size but will relish the fact that it too is well-suited to cutting and using in a vase. It can also be used as a dried flower.

Truffula Pink needs full sun and fertile well-drained soil to really perform to its capability. Letting these great plants sit in wet soggy soil will be a crime. You will want to space your plants 20 to 36 inches apart and apply a good layer of mulch after planting. It is a great plant for mass planting.

Try partnering with blue blooms of Salvia farinacea like Victoria Blue, Cathedral Deep Blue or the taller Mystic Spires Blue. It will also be incredible with Amistad salvia or Black & Bloom for a hummingbird, butterfly and bee habitat.

You will find that Skipper and Sulphur butterflies find the blossoms a real treat with frequent visits by swallowtail butterflies too. The Truffula Pink like Fireworks gomphrena will make you look like you have garnered the proverbial green thumb.

There seems to be also an added sizzle if you can combine with lime green or chartreuse plants like Wasabi coleus, Lemon Lime Nandina or Gold Mound duranta. This partnership does something that just causes you to grab a camera. You'll also find it easy to incorporate it into the tropical style garden combining with bananas and elephant ears.

What to do in the garden in May

It's May! Birds are singing, tulips are blooming—and weeds are growing—so it's time to get outside and kick into high gear. We start the month yanking out those weeds, roots and all, and end it planting crops and spreading mulch. But there's so much to do in between. Here's a tip or chore for each day of the month.

1. Incorporate generous helpings of compost into beds and boarders before planting.

2. Fertilize cabbage, lettuce, spinach and other cool-season vegetables.

3. Start planting perennials.

4. Repot overgrown houseplants into the next-size pot (2 inches larger).

5. Aerate the lawn; dethatch only if necessary.

6. Pull weeds as you see them, or the chore may become unmanageable.

7. Begin succession planting gladiolus: Corms pointy end up in full sun, 4 to 6 inches apart. Repeat weekly until mid-June.

8. Plant roses: Create a mound of soil at the bottom of planting hole and spread roots over it, then backfill.

9. Sow seeds for summer-blooming perennials and biennials directly into the garden.

10. Clean and store bird feeders for next winter.

11. Resist the temptation to buy cell-pack annuals already in bloom. Younger plants will be stronger.

12. Happy Mother's Day! As long as nighttime temperatures aren't below 55 degrees, it's safe to plant annuals.

13. Handle pests naturally by applying pyrethrins, Bt, insecticidal soap or neem oil.

14. Encircle a soaker hose over roots of newly planted trees. Water deeply now and regularly during their first year.

15. Plant corn now and you'll be enjoying it at your August cookouts.

16. Harvest third-year (or older) asparagus when stalks are 6 to 8 inches long. Leave younger ones in the ground.

17. Give beds and borders a crisp edge—you'll be surprised at the difference it makes!

18. Inspect undersides of hollyhock leaves for the orange pustules of rust fungus. Remove and discard affected foliage.

19. Prune gray tips from junipers.

20. "Harden off" vegetable seedlings: Place outdoors in shade for incrementally longer periods each day for a week before planting into the garden.

21. Prune spring-blooming shrubs as soon as their flowers fade.

22. Plant herb seedlings outdoors and water (they never need fertilizer).

23. Shear an inch off dianthus and creeping phlox when they're 6 inches tall; don't worry — they'll grow fuller.

24. If the lilacs are blooming, it's time to plant dahlias.

25. Mulch beds and borders to suppress weeds, retain moisture and nourish soil. Never create "volcanoes" around trees or mulch deeper than 3 inches.

26. Plant tomatoes, peppers, melons and other summer crops into the garden; water and apply mulch.

27. Happy Memorial Day! It's time to fertilize the lawn: Apply 1 pound of slow-release nitrogen per 1,000 square feet.

28. Gradually move houseplants outdoors, but never African violets; they're homebodies.

29. Fertilize faded bulb plants but don't remove foliage until it has died.

30. Use colorful annuals, like zinnias, to fill garden gaps left behind by early spring bloomers.

31. Plant tomatoes, peppers, melons and other summer crops into the garden; water and apply mulch.

A butterfly pollinates on a flower. TNS

FIRST DEATH ANNIVERSARY

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

†Dolores Marga Agulto

Remember Me

Fill not your heart with pain and sorrow,
but remember me in every tomorrow.
Remember the joy,
the laughter, the smiles,
I've only gone to rest a little while.

Although my leaving causes pain
and grief, my going has eased
my hurt and given me relief.

So dry your eyes and remember me
not as I am now, but as I use to be.
Because I will remember you all
and look on with a smile.
Understand, in your hearts,
I've only gone to rest a little while.
As long as I have the love of each of
you, I can live my life in the hearts
of all of you.

Please join us in prayers as we remember our beloved on the First Anniversary of her life in Heaven. Holy Mass of Intention will be celebrated nightly at 6pm at the Santa Soledad Church beginning Wednesday, April 24 through Thursday, May 2, 2019. On Sunday, April 28, 2019, mass will be at 6am/8:30am.

On the final day, May 2, 2019, appreciation dinner will be served after mass at the Social Hall of Santa Soledad Church.

With humble and sincere appreciation for your presence, thoughts and prayers.

The Children and Family

Life & Style

Cover-up: Students deck out dome with Captain America shield

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. (AP)—Student pranksters at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology have struck again, drawing inspiration from America's hottest movie.

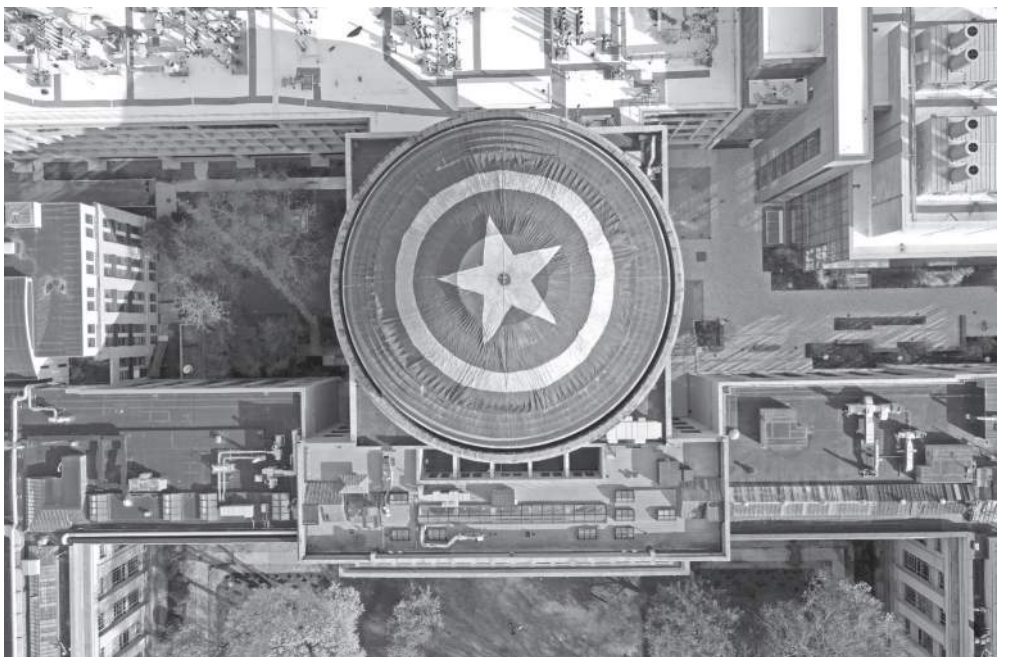
MIT students over the weekend draped the university's signature Great Dome with a giant cloth version of Captain America's red, white and blue shield.

Their efforts drew a Twitter "Very cool!" from actor Chris Evans, the Massachusetts native who plays Captain America in "Avengers: Endgame."

The shield went up Saturday night and was taken down Monday morning.

MIT students have for generations centered similar pranks, which they call "hacks," on the dome.

A realistic police cruiser was placed on the dome in 1994. In 1999, it was decked out to look like R2D2, the robot from "Star Wars."



This Sunday, April 28, 2019 photo provided by Raymond Huffman shows Massachusetts Institute of Technology's signature Great Dome draped with a giant cloth version of Captain America's red, white and blue shield, in Cambridge, Mass. The shield went up Saturday night and was taken down Monday morning. AP

Raymond Huffman, a 20-year-old from New York's Long Island, says he didn't have anything to do with this year's prank, but posted on YouTube aerial video he shot from his drone of the final product that's since generated tens of thousands of views.

Huffman said a friend involved in the prank told him the group had spent about six months planning the effort.

The prank tradition isn't an annual event at MIT and tends to happen spontaneously by groups of students that, for the most part, want to remain anonymous, he added.

"It's kind of cool to see the hacking culture has been maintained," Huffman said. "These are things you hear about when you first come to MIT."

Study: Kids' suicides spiked after Netflix's '13 Reasons'

Suicides among U.S. kids aged 10 to 17 jumped to a 19-year high in the month following the release of a popular TV series that depicted a girl ending her life, researchers said.

The study published Monday can't prove that the Netflix show "13 Reasons Why" was the cause, but there were 195 more youth suicides than would have been expected in the nine months following the show's March 2017 release, given historical and seasonal suicide trends, the study estimated.

During April 2017 alone, 190 U.S. tweens and teens took their own lives. Their April 2017 suicide rate was .57 per 100,000 people, nearly 30 percent higher than in the preceding five years included in the study. An additional analysis found that the April rate was higher than in the previous 19 years, said lead author Jeff Bridge, a suicide researcher at Nationwide Children's Hospital in Columbus, Ohio.

"The creators of the series intentionally portrayed the suicide of the main character. It was a very graphic depiction of the suicide death," which can trigger suicidal behavior, Bridge said.

Bridge acknowledged the study's limitations included not knowing whether anyone who died by suicide had watched the show. Also, the researchers were not able to account for other factors that might have influenced suicides. Those include the April 19, 2017, suicide of former New England Patriots player Aaron Hernandez and a man accused of a Facebook-publicized killing who died by suicide the day before Hernandez. Bridge said those deaths couldn't account for the spike the study found for the entire month of April.

The researchers analyzed data from the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on deaths in Americans aged 10 to 64 from January 2013 through December 2017. Their results were published in the Journal of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry. The researchers found no change in suicide rates in those 18 and older after the show was released.

The results are plausible and add to evidence that compelling media depictions of suicide can negatively influence young people, said sociologist Anna Mueller of the University of Chicago, who was not involved in the research.

Lisa Horowitz, a co-author and researcher at the National Institute of Mental Health, noted that suicide is the second leading cause of death for U.S. teens and called it "a major public health crisis." Her agency helped pay for the study.

Teen suicide rates have increased in recent years and other research has suggested that bullying and heavy use of social media may contribute to the risk.

Woodstock co-founder insists anniversary festival still on

NEW YORK (AP)—Woodstock 50 will go on despite the loss of a major financial partner, according to the organizers of the beleaguered anniversary event.

In a statement released late Monday, Woodstock 50 co-founder Michael Lang and Woodstock LLC said that they were "committed to ensuring that the 50th anniversary of Woodstock is marked with a festival deserving of its iconic name and place in American history and culture."

They said that would continue despite the announcement earlier in the day that a financial investor was dropping out of the event, scheduled for Aug 16-18 in Watkins Glen, New York.

"Although our financial partner is withdrawing, we will of course be continuing with the planning of the festival and intend to bring on new partners," the statement read. "The bottom line is, there is going to be a Woodstock 50th Anniversary Festival, as there must be, and it's going to be a blast."

The anniversary event has had some bumps in the road. Tickets were originally supposed to go on sale last week, but that was put on hold. And some of the performers leaked to the press ahead of its announcement.

But the biggest obstacle came on Monday when its major investor pulled out.

"Despite our tremendous investment of time, effort and commitment, we don't believe the production of the festival can be executed as an event worthy of the Woodstock Brand name while also ensuring the health and safety of the artists, partners and attendees," Dentsu Aegis Network's Amplifi Live said in a statement.

That led many to assume that the event would be canceled. Jay-Z, Dead & Company and the Killers were announced as headliners at the concert series, to take place about 115 miles (185 kilometers) northwest of the original site. The event is separate from an anniversary concert planned at the site of the original festival in 1969.

More than 80 artists, including John Fogerty, Miley Cyrus, Santana, Imagine Dragons, Robert Plant and The Sensational Space Shifters, the Black Keys, Chance the Rapper and Janelle Monae, are expected to perform on three main stages at Watkins Glen International racetrack in the Finger Lakes for Woodstock 50.

John Singleton, maker of 'Boyz N the Hood,' dies at 51

NEW YORK (AP)—Director John Singleton, who made one of Hollywood's most memorable debuts with the Oscar-nominated "Boyz N the Hood" and continued over the following decades to probe the lives of black communities in his native Los Angeles and beyond, has died. He was 51.

Singleton's family said Monday that he died in Los Angeles, surrounded by family and friends, after being taken off life support. Earlier this month, the director suffered a major stroke.

Singleton

Singleton was in his early 20s, just out of the University of Southern California's School of Cinematic Arts, when he wrote, directed and produced "Boyz N the Hood." Based on Singleton's upbringing and shot in his old neighborhood, the low-budget production starred Cuba Gooding Jr. and Ice Cube and centered on three friends in South Central Los Angeles, where college aspirations competed with the pressures of gang life. "Boyz N the Hood" was a critical and commercial hit, given a 20-minute standing ovation at the Cannes Film Festival and praised as a groundbreaking extension of rap to the big screen, a realistic and compassionate take on race, class, peer pressure and family. Singleton would later call it a "rap album on film."

For many, the 1991 release captured the explosive mood in Los Angeles in the months following the videotaped police beating of Rodney King. "Boyz N the Hood" also came out at a time when, thanks to the efforts to Spike Lee and others, black films were starting to get made by Hollywood after a long absence.

Singleton became the first black director to receive an Academy Award nomination, an honor he would say was compensation for the academy's snubbing Lee and "Do the Right Thing" two years earlier, and was nominated for best screenplay. ("Thelma & Louise" won instead.) At 24, he was also the youngest director nominee in Oscar history.

"I think I was living this film before I ever thought about making it," Singleton told Vice in 2016. "As I started to think about what I wanted to do with my life, and cinema became an option, it was just natural that this was probably gonna be my first film. In fact, when I applied to USC film school they had a thing that asked you to write three ideas for films. And one of them was called 'Summer of '84,' which was about growing up in South Central LA."

In 2002, "Boyz N the Hood" was added to the National Film Registry by the Library of Congress, which called it "an innovative look at life and the tough choices present for kids growing up in South Central Los Angeles."

Singleton's death Monday followed a turbulent week during which his family members made opposing court filings regarding his health. Singleton had been in intensive care in a Los Angeles hospital since he had a stroke on April 17. A court filing last week by his mother, Shelia Ward, requested she be appointed Singleton's temporary conservator to make medical and financial decisions while he was incapacitated.

Ward's filing said that Singleton was in a coma. But on Friday, Singleton's daughter Cleopatra Singleton, 19, filed a declaration disputing that account. She maintained that her father was not in a coma and that doctors did not "have a concrete diagnosis." She opposed her grandmother becoming conservator, or guardian.

Singleton's passing prompted widespread praise for a filmmaker who, as his "Shaft" star Samuel L. Jackson said, "blazed the trail for many young film makers," while "always remaining true to who he was and where he came from."

Ava DuVernay called him "a giant among us." Spike Lee said, "We'll miss you but your films will live on." Jordan Peele, the Oscar-winning "Get Out" and "Us" filmmaker, called him "a brave artist and a true inspiration."

Rep: Bryson hospitalized after mild heart attack

NEW YORK (AP)—A rep for Peabo Bryson says the R&B singer, known for hits such as "Beauty & the Beast" and "A Whole New World," is hospitalized after suffering a "mild heart attack."

A statement released Monday says the double Grammy-winner was stricken Saturday morning and is now in stable condition. The rep says both doctors and family are "optimistic for a speedy recovery" and welcome prayers on his behalf.

The 68-year-old with the silky tenor has had numerous hits, including "If You're Ever in My Arms Again" and "Tonight I Celebrate My Love" with Roberta Flack.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

MTV Video Music Awards is heading to New Jersey

NEW YORK (AP)—The 2019 MTV Video Music Awards has a new home: New Jersey. The network announced Monday that its annual awards show will take place Aug. 26 at the Prudential Center in Newark, New Jersey. The VMAs are typically held in New York, though it has also taken place in Los Angeles, Miami and Las Vegas. Last year's show took place at New York's Radio City Music Hall.

Metropolitan Opera fetes Placido Domingo golden anniversary

NEW YORK (AP) — Placido Domingo has starred on the stage of the Metropolitan Opera for a whopping 50 years - and is still singing, amazingly, at age 78. On Sunday, the Met literally turned the tables and threw a dinner on the same stage for the Spaniard's golden anniversary. Guests included soprano Renee Fleming and the company's new music director, Yannick Nezet-Seguin. "I have been lucky with a healthy throat and the passion for what I do," Domingo said, standing by his table in the middle of the stage before the empty 4,000-seat house, surrounded by dinner guests and joking, "for once, I'm here and I don't have to sing!" He noted that the international competition he started, Operalia, means that in just about every opera house in the world, he encounters its winners who have become stars he still mentors.

Elle Fanning, Yorgos Lanthimos join Inarritu's Cannes jury

NEW YORK (AP)—Actress Elle Fanning, "The Favourite" director Yorgos Lanthimos and "Cold War" filmmaker Pawel Pawlikowski are joining the Cannes Film Festival jury that will decide the Palme d'Or. The Cannes Film Festival on Monday announced the members of the jury to be led by Alejandro Inarritu, the "Birdman" director. Also on the jury are American director Kelly Reichardt, Italian filmmaker Alice Rohrwacher, Burkina Faso actress Maimouna N'Diaye, French author Enki Bilal and French director Robin Campillo. Campillo scripted the 2008 Palme d'Or winner "The Class." The Cannes Film Festival will open May 14 with the premiere of Jim Jarmusch's "The Dead Don't Die." The festival runs through May 25.

Streaming service Spotify hits 100 million paid user mark

COPENHAGEN, Denmark (AP)—Music streaming service Spotify said Monday that its paying subscribers have reached 100 million for the first time, up 32% on the year and almost twice the latest figures for Apple Music.

The Stockholm-based company called the figure, which was reached during the first three months of 2019, "an important milestone."

The growth was driven, among other things, by "a better-than-planned promotion in the U.S. and Canada." Spotify said it had reached "the high end of our guidance range of 97-100 million."

By comparison, archrival Apple Music had about 50 million paying subscribers at the end of 2018, the latest available figures. Apple is expected to release new figures with its earnings report on Tuesday.

In this April 3, 2018 file photo, a Spotify banner adorns the facade of the New York Stock Exchange. AP

The number of Spotify's total monthly users, which includes those who do not pay a monthly subscription fee but use the service with intermittent ads, rose to 217 million in the first quarter.

The strong growth in its user base led to a 33% rise in revenue, to 1.5 billion euros ($1.7 billion). Yet like many tech companies focusing on building market share, the company continued to lose money, reporting an operating loss of 47 million euros.

Spotify says that voice speakers like Google Home and Alexa are a "critical area of growth" and is looking to invest more in podcasts to supplement its offering of music.

Huffman's guilty-plea hearing in admissions case is moved up

BOSTON (AP)—Felicity Huffman is expected to plead guilty May 13 to charges that she took part in a sweeping college admissions cheating scam.

The "Desperate Housewives" star had been scheduled to enter her plea in Boston federal court on May 21. But a judge agreed Monday to move up the hearing because the lead prosecutor will be out of town.

Also Monday, lawyers formally entered not guilty pleas in court on behalf of "Full House" actress Lori Loughlin (LAWK'-lin); her husband, Mossimo Giannulli; and more than a dozen other parents.

In this April 3, 2019 file photo, actress Felicity Huffman arrives at federal court in Boston to face charges in a nationwide college admissions bribery scandal. AP

They had previously pleaded not guilty in court documents. The judge allowed the parents to skip their arraignment.

Huffman was accused of paying $15,000 to rig her daughter's SAT score.

Loughlin and Giannulli are charged with paying $500,000 in bribes to get their daughters into the University of Southern California.

Appeals court denies Bill Cosby's latest bid for bail

HARRISBURG, Pa. (AP)—An appeals court has denied Bill Cosby's latest request to leave prison on bail while he fights his sex-assault conviction.

Defense lawyers say the 81-year-old comedian is likely to have his conviction overturned because of trial errors.

Cosby spokesman Andrew Wyatt says they aren't surprised by the Pennsylvania Superior Court order Monday denying last week's bail motion.

He says the filing was meant to point out that Montgomery County Judge Steven O'Neill hasn't issued a post-trial opinion the defense needs to pursue Cosby's appeal. They plan to challenge several trial rulings, including O'Neill's decision to let five other accusers testify at last year's trial.

Cosby is serving a three- to 10-year prison term for drugging and molesting a woman in 2004. District Attorney Kevin Steele calls Cosby's bail motion "fraught with inaccuracies."

Wife in love with girlfriend resolves to end her marriage

DEAR ABBY: I'm married to a man 21 years my senior. "Joe" and I have been married six years. I have recently realized I'm gay and have fallen in love with another woman.

Although Joe isn't infirm or mentally deficient, he has a hard time making decisions on his own. He'll read something, hand it to me and ask me what I think. He can't form an opinion on his own, but God forbid you challenge an opinion he DOES have.

Over the course of our marriage, he has become "crotchety" and burned all his bridges. Because of this, I have lost friends, business opportunities and my reputation. He got fired from his job three years ago and has never actively tried to find another one. I have carried the family on my own financially.

He literally has no one but me. He's past retirement age, and I'm half that. I have more life to live being who I really AM, but I feel guilty leaving him high and dry. I no longer love him; I love my girlfriend. I want to be out and proud and live what I realize now is my real truth. How can I tell him I want out?

TRAPPED IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR TRAPPED: Before telling your husband anything, discuss this with a divorce lawyer. Leaving him may be complicated because you have been his sole support for a while. Once you know what your financial responsibilities may—or may not—be, you will be in a better position to give your husband the bad news. When you do, a way to start would be to tell him you have realized that you are a lesbian.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My boyfriend, "Mason," and I have been dating for eight months, and it has been going well. However, there is one thing standing in our way—his mom and sisters.

Mason is the only boy. His parents divorced when he was young. His mom never remarried, but his father did. His two sisters (one older, one younger) don't have boyfriends. The three of them constantly make comments whenever Mason and I go out and do things—that he's spending too much money or isn't at home enough. They critique everything Mason does, from what he wears to how much money he earned in his last paycheck. It's like they're obsessed with him.

They plan vacations while I'm around and don't invite me. I haven't been invited over for any holidays or family functions. I love Mason and want a future with him, but I can't continue dealing with the nonsense from his jealous mom and sisters. It's causing a huge strain.

Mason knows how upset I am. He says he has talked to them, but their behavior hasn't changed. If he won't take matters into his own hands, should I?

COMPETING IN NEW JERSEY

DEAR COMPETING: No! Until Mason is mature enough to put his foot down, his mother and sisters will continue to decide for him who he dates, how much time he spends with her and whether he is earning "enough" money to be seeing anyone. You cannot and should not compete with his family because it isn't healthy for you or your relationship. Remember, Mason will likely always be a package deal, and if you can't accept it, you should end things.

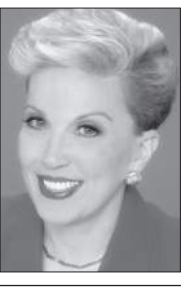
■ ■ ■ ■

READER ALERT! If you know a student who would like to enter the $5,000 Dear Abby College Columnist Scholarship Contest, see the information at DearAbby.com/scholarship and learn more. The deadline is fast approaching.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable—and most frequently requested—poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

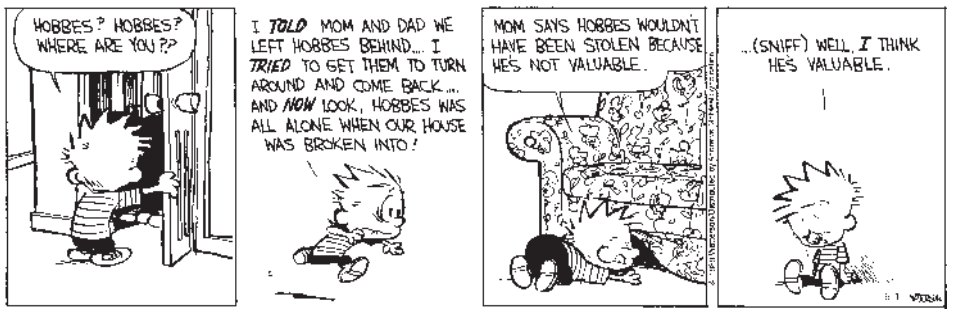


Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

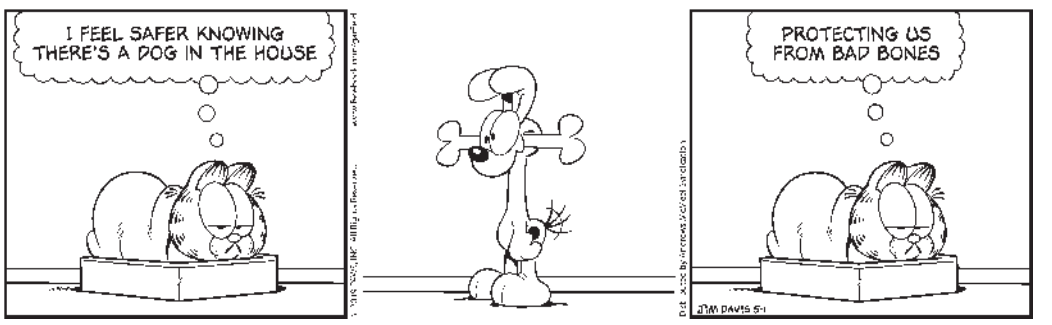
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


HOBBES? HOBBES? WHERE ARE YOU??
I TOLD MOM AND DAD WE LEFT HOBBES BEHIND... I TRIED TO GET THEM TO TURN AROUND AND COME BACK... AND NOW LOOK, HOBBES WAS ALL ALONE WHEN OUR HOUSE WAS BROKEN INTO!
MOM SAYS HOBBES WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN STOLEN BECAUSE HE'S NOT VALUABLE.
...(SNIFF) WELL, I THINK HE'S VALUABLE.

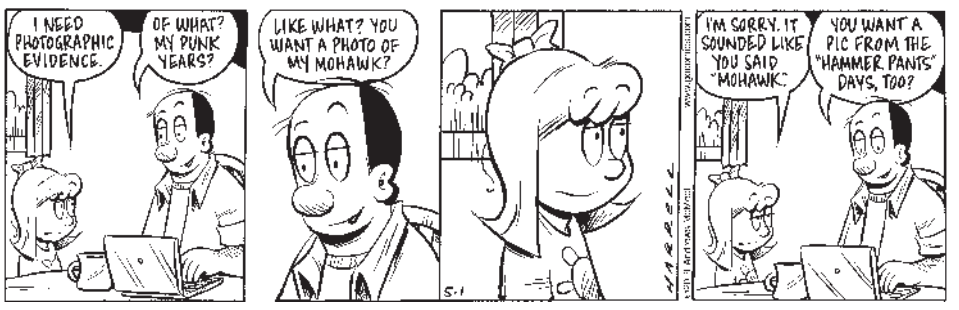
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



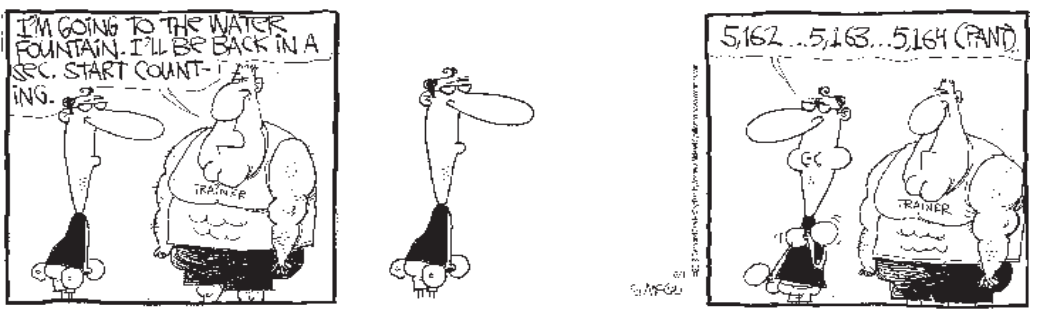
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


I NEED PHOTOGRAPHIC EVIDENCE.
OF WHAT? MY PUNK YEARS?
LIKE WHAT? YOU WANT A PHOTO OF MY MOHAWK?
I'M SORRY. IT SOUNDED LIKE YOU SAID "MOHAWK."
YOU WANT A PIC FROM THE "HAMMER PANTS" DAYS, TOO?

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

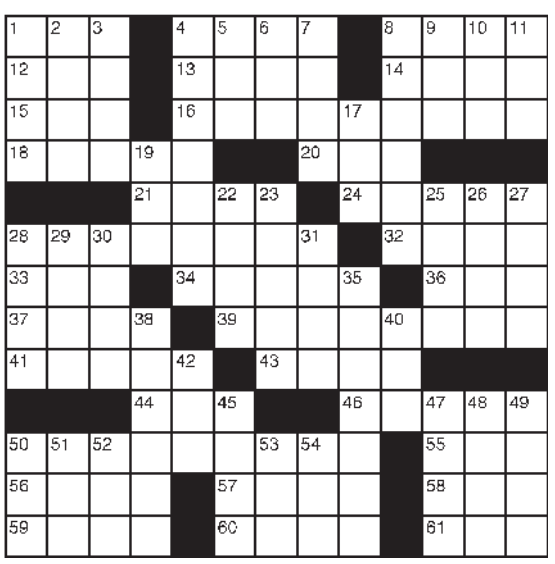
ACROSS
1 Feedbag bit
4 Chilled
8 Theater-goer's souvenir
12 Show to a seat, slangily
13 Cleopatra's river
14 Poi base
15 Dance syllable
16 Fabric fastener
18 Klum of "Project Runway"
20 Hide-hair insert
21 Early birds?
24 Apple intruders
28 Wind-driven toy
32 Tidy
33 Altar affirmative
34 Fusses
36 Log chopper
37 Region (Abbr.)
39 Flag-shaped blazer accessory
41 Pago Pago's place
43 Sleuth Wolfe
44 Sphere
46 Lively dance
50 Yankee uniform pattern
55 Squeak stopper
56 Clue
57 One-named supermodel
58 Buddy
59 Conks out
60 Like lemons
61 Supplement, with "out"

DOWN
1 "That hurts!"
2 Tennis great Arthur
3 Bangkok language
4 Perception
5 Espionage org.
6 Sprite
7 TV chef Paula
8 "Sophie's Choice" author
9 Spigot
10 Swiss canton
11 "— voyage!"
17 AAA job
19 Morning moisture
22 Earth sci.
23 Auto style
25 Harvest
26 Extra-long
27 British gun
28 Plum centers
29 Notion
30 Standard
31 Easy gait
35 Eden tempter
38 Perches
40 Privy
42 Illustrations
45 Telly watcher
47 Earring site
48 "Star Trek" captain
49 Medicinal plant
50 Prof's degree
51 Three, on a sundial
52 Away from SSW
53 "— Little Teapot"
54 Standard

Solution time: 23 mins.

D	A	M	P		W	O	L	F		M	A	T
N	E	A	R		R	H	E	A		C	C	O
O	R	Y	C	G	E	N	I	C		S	H	U
			N	I	N	O		U	N	S	F	R
S	T	A	G	S			G	L	E	E		
E	O	N	S		T	E	U	T	O	N	I	C
E	I	N		L	E	L	A	Y		G	N	U
P	L	A	T	O	N	I	C		T	E	T	E
		P	C	R	T			H	E	A	D	
P	I	O	T	O		S	W	A	N			
E	E	L		T	E	L	E	G	E	N	I	C
T	R			H	E	A	D		T	I	N	A
A	D	S		Y	E	W	S		S	N	A	P

Yesterday's answer 5-1



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Wes Anderson, 50; Tim McGraw, 52; Joanna Lumley, 73; Judy Collins, 80.

Happy Birthday: Keep a close watch over joint money matters, settlements or contracts that are due for a change. It's up to you to stay on top of your affairs and to speak on your own behalf. If you let others take over, you will have trouble getting your seniority back when it comes time to make important decisions. Your numbers are 5, 13, 20, 29, 36, 44, 48.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Remain calm. Don't let your emotions take over or cause you to do or say something you shouldn't. Control and discipline will help you avoid mistakes and take advantage of a situation. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* You'll be eager to make a change, but before you do, go over every detail carefully and make adjustments that will ensure you reach your goal without loss or interference. Leave nothing to chance, and stay within your budget. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Note what everyone around you is doing. Pitch in and help; become part of the solution. Foster important relationships, and do your best to encourage and support the ones you love in a positive way. Romance will improve your personal life. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* How you handle situations will change the way others perceive you. Honesty and integrity, along with having the wisdom not to act in haste, will help you overcome any situation you face. Don't fear change if it will solve a problem. ✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Do what works best for you. A change that takes place or a situation you have no control over should be handled with intelligence. Know when to walk away and do your own thing. Personal improvements and romance should be priorities. ✪✪✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Listen carefully, and learn all you can from experts or those with more experience. How you handle relationships with people you work or play with will influence your health and your wealth. Don't take a risk; choose to make practical changes. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Distance yourself from negativity and situations that are not supportive. Travel plans, business trips, meetings and partnerships should be where you put your efforts. Strive for a better relationship with someone you love. Romance is encouraged. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* You'll experience a change of heart or choose to live differently. How you move forward will depend on honesty when dealing with loved ones who aren't likely to want to share the decisions you make. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Make adjustments at home that will add to your comfort and convenience as well as contribute to the lifestyle changes you want to make. A partnership with someone you love will improve if you share your intentions. Romance is highlighted. ✪✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Be creative when forced to make changes. Bend situations to accommodate your needs. Protect against injury or unnecessary arguments. A positive and healthy attitude will help deter others from meddling in your affairs. Don't get down; get moving. ✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* You don't have to follow anyone or agree with what others do or say. Choose to be your own person, surround yourself with those who bring out the best in you and live your life according to your needs and best interest. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Keep your life simple, honest and moderate. Focus on what you can do to make improvements to your community and causes you want to help. Only take on what's feasible and will not hurt you financially or emotionally. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are open-minded, agile and quick-witted. You are inventive and secretive.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		4	8	1	5	3	7
		6					2
		5					8
		9					5
		3					6
	4	7	8			3	2	9
9			7		8			4
3			2		6			1
	8	2				9	7	

Difficulty Level ★★★ 5/01

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

3	7	4	1	5	8	9	2	6
8	1	2	9	7	6	5	3	4
9	5	6	3	4	2	7	8	1
1	6	7	2	8	9	3	4	5
2	4	9	7	3	5	6	1	8
5	8	3	4	6	1	2	7	9
7	3	8	5	9	4	1	6	2
4	2	5	6	1	3	8	9	7
6	9	1	8	2	7	4	5	3

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

ARTHUR BRYANT'S BARBEQUE **Solution: 6 letters**

Y	T	F	F	N	Y	L	K	O	O	R	B	S	S	K
E	L	A	E	S	A	U	C	E	S	A	R	D	A	A
K	A	T	E	E	W	S	T	Y	Y	I	I	N	M	T
R	S	M	B	M	D	R	R	R	B	L	S	E	U	H
U	K	I	D	S	E	N	R	S	C	A	K	G	E	E
T	R	A	Y	S	E	E	O	U	S	E	E	E	L	R
E	O	D	S	H	P	E	E	C	V	M	T	L	U	I
F	P	E	D	F	S	M	I	I	N	I	K	P	A	N
F	D	K	N	A	A	T	N	L	L	I	R	G	M	E
U	A	O	E	N	Y	E	G	A	R	E	V	E	B	C
B	E	M	T	S	G	L	C	L	E	A	N	U	P	I
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Yesterday's Answer: Brittle Ice

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CLASSIFIED ADS

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION OF MYONG RUN CORPORATION

Notice is hereby given that the Myong Run Corporation, doing business as DO-RE-MI Music School, a corporation established and operating in the Commonwealth of the Norther Mariana Islands will cease operation effective immediately. A letter of intent has been submitted to Division of Revenue and Taxation on this 29th day of April, 2019.

Pursuant thereto, all creditors and persons with claims against the corporation are hereby notified to present their respective claim in writing to the corporation at the address set forth below.

MYONG RUN CORPORATION
PMB 322 Box 10001
Saipan, MP 96950
All claims not filed within the time required by law will forever be barred.

/s/ Ao Zhang
President

Art Man Corporation
PMB 122 Box 1000 Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. No. 234-8079 / 287-0999 • Contact Person: Jung Me Park

JOB POSITION: MUNICIPAL WORKER
Collect garbage from buildings, business and facilities as per schedule to ensure garbage is removed, transported and disposed of according to set polies and procedures. Collect and dump refuse or recyclable materials from containers into truck. May drive truck, operate automated or semi-automated hoisting devices that raise refuse bins and dump contents into openings in truck bodies. Drives sweeping machine that cleans streets of trash and other accumulations. Clean and repair septic tanks, sewer lines, or drains. May patch walls and partitions of tank, replace damaged drain tile, or repair breaks in underground piping. Deliver and pickup portable toilets. Keep assigned vehicle clean on the inside and outside • All other duties as assigned and needed.

JOB QUALIFICATION:
Six months to one year working experience associated with this occupation. Has knowledge of principles and processes for providing customer and personal services. Knowledge of machines and tools, including their designs, uses, repair, and maintenance. Has the ability to coordinate two or more limbs, ability to quickly and repeatedly adjust the controls of a machine or a vehicle to exact positions. Able to work flexible hours, holidays and weekend. Motivated and a self-starter yet able to work within a team to accomplish large jobs efficiently. Ability to work in a fast-paced environment.

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB19-BECQ-081

SUBMISSION DATE: MAY 24, 2019 TIME: 10:30 A.M.

"OFFICE SPACE RENTAL FOR THE BUREAU OF ENVIRONMENTAL & COASTAL QUALITY – ROTA BRANCH"

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THE LESSOR MUST COMPLY WITH CNMI PUBLIC LAW 15-23. ARTICLE 5, SECTION 8652 (A-D)

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ELI D. CABRERA
ADMINISTRATOR, BECQ

/S/ JOAQUIN S. REYES
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB19-CIP/OPD-079

SUBMISSION DATE: MAY 24, 2019 TIME: 09:30 A.M.

"LEASE OF ONE (1) CLASS "I" VEHICLE FOR THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM & FOR THE OFFICE OF PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT"

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THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ELIZABETH S. BALAJADIA, P.E.
CIP ADMINISTRATOR

/S/ KODEP OGUMORU-ULUDONG
DIRECTOR OF OPD

/S/ JOAQUIN S. REYES
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

Kathlyn Louisa Freeman
& Nicholas Roger Villalon
PMB 10002 Box 4211
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel.: 285-3645/287-0748

pro se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In the matter of the Adoption of M.V.S.C. and K.R.S.C. Minor Child By: Kathlyn Louisa Freeman & Nicholas Roger Villalon Petitioners	FCD-AD-CIVIL ACTION NO. 19-0184 **NOTICE OF HEARING**

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on 20th day of May, 2019, 9:00am in Courtroom MBP, before the Honorable Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio.

Dated this 25th day of April, 2019.

/s/ By: Patrick V. Diaz,
Deputy Clerk of Court

Roger Thompson
One Broadway 391 Tinian MP
788-0295

Pro se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

ROGER THOMPSON Petitioner vs. COMPONG THOMPSON Respondent TO: COMPONG THOMPSON	FCD-DI-CIVIL ACTION NO. 19-0170 **SUMMONS**

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is given to you herewith, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to Roger Thompson whose mailing address is ONE BROADWAY 391 TINIAN MP as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Court for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of Court at Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file an answer in accordance with this Summons, Judgement by Default may be taken against you for relief in the Complaint.

Dated this 9th day of April, 2019.
/s/ Clerk of Court

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Jokic leads Nuggets past Blazers in Game 1

AP

Portland Trail Blazers forward Maurice Harkless (4) reaches out for the ball as Denver Nuggets center Nikola Jokic throws a pass in the second half of Game 1 of an NBA basketball second-round playoff series, Monday, April 29, 2019, in Denver. The Nuggets won, 121-113.

DENVER (AP)—Nikola Jokic scored 37 points and the Denver Nuggets withstood Damian Lillard's 39-point effort and Enes Kanter's strong return to Portland's lineup in a 121-113 win over the well-rested Trail Blazers in the opener of their second-round playoff series Monday night.

Lillard, who struck for 50 points, including a 37-footer at the buzzer to oust Oklahoma City in five games, shot 4-of-12 on 3-point attempts and Gary Harris blocked his 3 from behind in the closing minute to keep the Trail Blazers from closing in.

Jamal Murray added 23 points for Denver, which was making its first appearance in the second round in a decade, and Paul Millsap scored 19.

Game 2 is Wednesday night at the Pepsi Center.

Back-to-back layups by Lillard pulled Portland to within five points with nine minutes left, but Jokic sank a pair of free throws off C.J. McCollum's flagrant foul sandwiched by a pair of dunks by Mason Plumlee as Denver pushed its lead back to double digits at 107-96.

Portland never got much closer.

Denver was coming off a 90-86 win over San Antonio 48 hours earlier, their first Game 7 victory since May 3, 1978, against Milwaukee. The Trail Blazers, who are in the playoffs for the sixth straight season, had nearly a week off after dispatching Oklahoma City to advance for the first time in three years.

Yet, the Nuggets had the energy at altitude and won the fourth time in five games.

The Trail Blazers did get a boost from Kanter, who separated his left shoulder in Game 5 against the Thunder. He had 14 points by halftime when Portland trailed 58-55.

Kanter, who signed with Portland after being waived by the Knicks following the trade deadline, was originally a backup to starter Jusuf Nurkic, but his role was magnified when Nurkic broke a leg March 25. Kanter averaged 13.1 points and 8.6 rebounds in 23 games down the stretch, then put up 13.2 points and 10.2 rebounds in the first round.

Nuggets coach Michael Malone said before tip-off he was hopeful that gave his young team some mettle.

"Knowing we can be down 2-1 and a lot of people had written us off as a bunch of frauds and to come back win the last three out of four, that's got to give you confidence," Malone said. "Game 2 at home was a must-win; Game 4 on the road was a must-win, and obviously Game 7, we know what those are all about. I take so much pride and joy in thinking about all the young guys that grew up in that first round. So now we have to do it all over again."

Jokic, who averaged 23.1 points, 12.1 rebounds and 9.1 assists in the first round against San Antonio, made all 12 of his free throws and added nine rebounds and six assists.

76ers 94, Raptors 89

In Toronto, Jimmy Butler's big game helped Philadelphia snap a lengthy losing streak in Toronto and, more importantly, brought the 76ers level in their Eastern Conference semifinal series.

Butler had 30 points and 11 rebounds, James Ennis scored 13 points and the 76ers held on to beat the Raptors on Monday night, knotting the series 1-1.

It was Philadelphia's first win in Toronto since Nov. 10, 2012, snapping a 14-game losing streak.

"Everybody wants to paint the picture that we haven't won here in however many years," Butler said. "I'm just glad that we came out on top. We don't care how many games we've lost, nothing like that."

Butler scored 12 in the final quarter to help the 76ers withstand a late Toronto rally.

"He was just a tremendous rock," coach Brett Brown said. "He willed us to a lot of different situations. He was a stud."

Butler scored just 10 points in Game 1, when he shot 4 for 12.

"Jimmy Butler is a gamer," Raptors coach Nick Nurse said. "He wasn't going to be quiet this whole series."

Game 3 is Thursday night in Philadelphia.

Down 19 in the first half, Toronto cut the deficit to one late in the third, only to go cold to start the fourth, missing six of its first seven shots.

The Raptors kept coming, however. Lowry made 3-pointers on both sides of a pair of foul shots by Butler cutting it to 90-87 with 1:36 to go. Toronto got the ball back, and Siakam scored on a layup to make it a one-point game, but Joel Embiid answered with a driving shot at the other end, restoring the three-point advantage with 24 seconds left.

After Lowry nearly turned the ball over, Danny Green missed a potential tying 3, and Philadelphia's Tobias Harris came up with the rebound, his 11th. Harris was fouled and sealed it by making a pair with 3.9 seconds left.

"We got lucky there at the end," Brown said.

Embiid scored 12 points in 32 minutes despite missing the morning shootaround because of flu-like symptoms. Brown said Embiid received intravenous fluids before the game.

"Full credit all over the place to Joel," Brown said.

Embiid acknowledged feeling rough, but refused to sit out.

"There's no way I was missing this game," he said. "This game was really important to us. It doesn't matter what I had, I was going to play."

Kawhi Leonard scored 35 points, Siakam had 21 and Lowry 20. Toronto shot 10 for 37 from 3-point range and 33 for 91 overall as its franchise-record five game postseason winning streak came to an end.

"We didn't play well tonight," Lowry said. "They played really desperate and played super hard tonight and they got a victory."

Toronto missed six of its first eight shots, matching the number of misses it had in the first quarter of Game 1, when the Raptors made 16 of 22. Toronto shot 7 for 24 in the first and missed its first seven from 3-point range before Norm Powell connected.

Butler scored six points for Philadelphia, who led 26-17 after one. Toronto got 17 from both Leonard and Siakam in the first quarter of Game 1, when they scored 39 points.

Ennis and Butler each scored seven points in the second and Philadelphia led 51-38 at the half.

Leonard scored seven more as Toronto used a 13-4 run out of the break to cut the gap to 55-51. Leonard had 11 points in the third and Siakam had seven. Toronto trailed 61-60 with 2:50 left in the quarter but Embiid made four free throws before the quarter ended and the 76ers took a 69-63 lead to the fourth.

Popovich negotiating new deal with Spurs

SAN ANTONIO (AP)—The Spurs suffered through an odd, erratic season filled with injuries, strife and drama before a second straight ouster from the playoffs in the first round.

Gregg Popovich enjoyed it so much he is coming back for a 24th season as coach in San Antonio.

Normally extremely private, Popovich said Monday he is negotiating a new deal with the Spurs after his current contract expired this season. There was some uncertainty surrounding his return, but the 70-year-old Popovich put an end to that with a quip or two.

"I'm currently in negotiations and could very well end up with either the Portofino Flyers or the Positano Pirates (or the Spurs)," Popovich said dryly. "I think it's like one-third Positano, one-third Portofino and one-third San Antonio. So, we'll see where I end up."

There is little chance Popovich ends up anywhere but San Antonio, where he has enjoyed unprecedented success. His desire to return was apparent during an 18-minute news conference to wrap up a season that ended with a loss to the Denver Nuggets in Game 7 of their first-round series.

Popovich has1,245 wins, third-most in NBA history behind Don Nelson and Lenny Wilkens, and is one of five coaches to win five NBA championships. He will coach USA Basketball in the FIBA World Cup in China this summer, and will coach the Americans in the Tokyo Olympics next summer should the team qualify.

The Spurs have reached the playoffs the last 22 seasons, a streak that ties for the longest in NBA history.

Many doubted the Spurs would continue that streak this season with all the turmoil and turnover.

A year ago, Kawhi Leonard played in only nine games while nursing a right thigh injury. Reportedly upset with how his rehabilitation was handled, Leonard forced his way out of San Antonio in the offseason and was sent to Toronto along with Danny Green in a trade for DeMar DeRozan and Jakob Poeltl.

The Spurs also lost Manu Ginobili to retirement and Tony Parker left the team in free agency along with veteran Kyle Anderson.

"I didn't know what to expect, to be honest," Popovich said. "I didn't know how this group would respond to that kind of adversity, but they showed us a lot in continuing with the program and trying to do what we wanted them to do. So, that was very impressive to me."

San Antonio had eight new players on its roster this season, the most in Popovich's tenure. That turned out to be one of the highlights for the veteran coach.

"It was kind of one of the more enjoyable seasons because you got to see people develop," Popovich said.

Giants snap Dodgers' four-game win streak

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Evan Longoria's most significant hit with the Giants was more than a year in the making. Given the situation, the timing couldn't have been much better.

Longoria hit a three-run double in the seventh inning to rally San Francisco past Los Angeles 3-2 on Monday night, ending the Dodgers' four-game win streak despite two more hits from Cody Bellinger.

AP
San Francisco Giants pitcher Will Smith works against the Los Angeles Dodgers in the ninth inning of a baseball game, Monday, April 29, 2019, in San Francisco.

Sabathia goes for 3,000 Ks, Yelich hobbled

CC Sabathia (1-0, 2.40 ERA) needs three strikeouts for 3,000 when the New York Yankees visit Arizona.

The 38-year-old veteran, who plans to retire after this season, is trying to join Randy Johnson and Steve Carlton as the only left-handers to reach the milestone. Sabathia would become the 17th member of the club and first to enter since John Smoltz in 2008.

With 13 players on the injured list, the depleted Yankees (17-11) have still managed to win three straight and 11 of 13. But in Arizona, they will be facing a team that currently has a winning record for only the second series this season. New York was swept by Houston in three games from April 8-10.

In Milwaukee, NL MVP Christian Yelich was out of Milwaukee's lineup for the series opener against Colorado, a day after leaving a game because of lower back discomfort.

"That's where we are at," Brewers manager Craig Counsell said Monday night. "Obviously, we are going to be cautious. It's a good sign that he feels a little bit better today and not worse. We'll just take it day to day."

Yelich exited Sunday's game against the Mets in the fifth inning. The right fielder singled in the fourth and then injured his back on an attempted stolen base.

"We've missed about a week last June, with a lower back issue," Counsell said. "He's dealt with it before. He addressed it really well with what we call his prehab work. The work's to prevent this stuff but it still creeps up on him."

Yelich is tied with Cody Bellinger for the major league lead with 14 home runs. He is hitting .353 with 34 RBIs in 29 games.

Joe Panik and Yangervis Solarte had two hits apiece for the Giants. San Francisco had lost seven of 10, including a series sweep by the New York Yankees last weekend.

"I've been waiting for that hit in a Giants uniform for a long time," said Longoria, traded from Tampa Bay to San Francisco before last season. "The rivalry is a big deal, so it's a big situation there. For me and for this team, every one right now is big. We have a lot of work to do."

The Giants were shut out through six innings and stranded three runners in scoring position before nearly batting around in the seventh.

Panik singled off Ross Stripling (1-2) with one out and moved to third on Solarte's double. After Stripling walked Brandon Belt to load the bases, Buster Posey struck out swinging against Dylan Floro. Longoria, who flied out as a pinch hitter in the sixth, then lashed a 2-1 pitch from Floro down the left-field line to clear the bases.

"It did a lot for me, did a lot for the club and I'm sure for Longo. Great at-bat there," Giants manager Bruce Bochy said. "We needed a big hit in that game. It was good to have somebody deliver for us in a big way."

Bochy brought in Longoria sooner than he anticipated because Pablo Sandoval had swelling in his right knee and could not swing right-handed.

"It worked out well," Bochy said. "Longo comes in and gets a big hit for us."

The Giants lost two of three to the Dodgers in Los Angeles earlier this season. Taking the first game of this series at home after getting swept by the Yankees was big.

"Anytime you win close games it's awesome," San Francisco starter Jeff Samardzija said. "When you go out there and win close games against rival teams it always feels good, especially to end the little skid we had going."

Sam Dyson (1-0) retired five batters to earn the win. Will Smith pitched the ninth for his seventh save in seven chances.

Bellinger stayed hot with two hits, a walk and an RBI, his 37th of the season— a major league record before May 1. That raised his batting average to a big league-best .434.

Twins 1, Astros 0

In Minneapolis, Jake Odorizzi pitched seven solid innings to outduel Justin Verlander, Ehire Adrianza homered off Houston's ace and the Minnesota Twins beat the Astros.

Odorizzi (3-2) gave up four hits while beating Houston for the second time in two starts. He walked one and struck out seven, and Minnesota won for the eighth time in 10 games. Blake Parker recorded his sixth save.

Adrianza's first homer of the season led off the third. He hit a towering, deep shot to the plaza in right field on a full count against Verlander (4-1), who allowed two hits, walked two and struck out seven over six innings.

Brewers 5, Rockies 1

In Milwaukee, struggling slugger Jesus Aguilar hit his first two homers of the season and the Brewers beat Colorado with NL MVP Christian Yelich sidelined by lower back soreness.

Zach Davies allowed an unearned run in 5 1/3 innings, and Milwaukee opened a 10-game homestand with a breakout game from its beefy first baseman.

Aguilar entered hitting .123 after accruing 35 homers and 108 RBIs last season. He had a three-run homer in the first and added a solo shot in the third, both off Kyle Freeland (2-4). Aguilar also singled in the eighth and had four RBIs.

Davies (3-0) allowed just three hits and lowered his ERA to 1.38. He struck out two and walked three. Alex Claudio, Jay Jackson and Donnie Hart combined to retire 11 of the final 12 hitters.

Red Sox 9, Athletics 4

In Boston, Xander Bogaerts hit a tying two-run double that sailed over the head of center fielder Ramon Laureano, who made a bad read during a six-run third inning as the Red Sox topped Oakland.

Rookie Michael Chavis drove in three and Mookie Betts had three singles for Boston, which had lost two straight to AL East-leading Tampa Bay.

Ryan Brasier (1-0) got four outs and was credited with the victory after starter Eduardo Rodriguez failed to go five innings with Boston leading. Matt Barnes got the final two outs on two pitches for his second save after Oakland loaded the bases.

Cardinals 6, Nationals 3

In Washington, Harrison Bader homered to spark a six-run fifth inning as surging St. Louis rallied past Patrick Corbin and the Nationals in the opener of a four-game series.

Marcell Ozuna put the Cardinals ahead 4-3 with a two-run single. Jose Martinez had an RBI double, and Yadier Molina added a run-scoring single off Corbin (2-1), who took a 3-0 lead into the fifth.

Michael Wacha (2-0) went five innings after being activated from the 10-day injured list earlier in the day. The right-hander allowed three runs and four hits while striking out five.

Reds 5, Mets 4

In New York, Jesse Winker homered off All-Star closer Edwin Diaz with two outs in the ninth inning, and Cincinnati beat the Mets after wasting a four-run lead.

Left-handed batters had been 0 for 15 this year against Diaz (0-1) before Winker drove a fastball over the right-center field fence for his career-high eighth home run, the most by a Reds player this season. Diaz was pitching for the third straight day for the first time this season.

Raisel Iglesias (1-3) pitched two innings, striking out his last four batters.

White Sox 5, Orioles 3

In Chicago, Tim Anderson and Yonder Alonso each hit a two-run homer, sending Manny Banuelos and the White Sox over slumping Baltimore.

Banuelos (2-0) pitched five-hit ball into the sixth inning in his first start since replacing Ervin Santana in the rotation. The rookie left-hander has two wins in his last three games after he went 1-4 in 2015 with Atlanta – his last season in the majors before this year.

Baltimore's Chris Davis had two hits and two RBIs and Pedro Severino homered, but John Means (3-3) struggled after tossing five effective innings in a 4-3 win against Chicago last week.

Rays 8, Royals 5

In Kansas City, Missouri, Tommy Pham, Yandy Diaz and Ji-Man Choi each drove in two, sending hot-hitting Tampa Bay over the Royals.

Michael Perez and Kevin Kiermaier also drove in runs for the Rays (19-9), who have won five of six to build upon the best record in baseball. They also moved to 10-2 on the road.

Yonny Chirinos went 5 2/3 innings in relief of effective opener Ryne Stanek, allowing two earned runs on two hits and a walk. Chirinos improved to 4-0 after going 0-3 last season.

The Rays did most of their damage against Brad Keller (2-3), who struggled in his return from a five-game suspension for his role in a fracas with the Chicago White Sox. The big right-hander allowed five runs on six hits and three walks over five innings.

Eagles stun Knights in middle school caging

By ROBY N. PAMINTUAN
pamintuanroby@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Grace Christian Academy fended off Mount Carmel School's comeback push for a 26-20 upset in the Commonwealth Coalition of Private Schools Association Middle School Basketball League yesterday at GCA's court.

Lance Lerio made a layup with 20 seconds left in the game and drew a foul from one of the Knights defenders to seal it for the Eagles. He missed the bonus shot, but the deuce was enough for GCA to notch its second consecutive victory for a 5-4 record, while the favored Knights slipped to a 7-2 slate.

Before Lerio nailed the insurance, MCS nipped at the Eagles' heels with 26 seconds left in the final quarter, as Gabby San Nicolas' free throw inched the Knights within 4 points, 20-24. Despite Mount Carmel's best efforts to close the gap in the dying seconds, GCA's headstrong defense frustrated the Knights the rest of the way.

Mt. Carmel had to play catch up, as the Eagles got off to a good start, building a 11-3 lead at the end of the first period, behind the free throws of Lerio, Praise Woo, and Ryan Daproza. MCS struggled, as only San Nicolas and Leo Naraja scored and all their points came from the charity stripe.

The Knights then started to show signs of life in the second canto, as San Nicolas slashed through the lane for two layups and Naraja cashed in on a 15-footer. However, siblings Jason Du and Justin Du countered with a field goal apiece to keep GCA's head above the water at the break, 15-9,

At the resumption of the game, O'hane Borja banked in a trey to move the Knights within 3, 12-15. However, the Eagles gained more cushion anew with Railee Yumul putback and Lerio's completed 3-point play. GCA kept the 6-point advantage at the end of the third period, 20-14, as Mt. Carmel made only one more field goal off Naraja's floater.

The Eagles went on to foil the Knights' comeback bid in the fourth frame to bag their fifth win.

Lerio led GCA with his 8 points, while Daproza added 7. Naraja top-scored for the Knights with 11 points, while San Nicolas chipped in 6

Meanwhile, Mt. Carmel earned a come-from-behind win over GCA in the girls division game, 28-23.

The Lady Knights were behind by 2 points heading into the fourth period, 19-21, when Kaithlyn Chavez spearheaded their rally, scoring 9 points in the final frame. Chavez led all scorers with her 16 points, while Kaeli Pathil contributed 6.

ROBY N. PAMINTUAN
Grace Christian Academy's Lance Lerio, left, drives against Mt. Carmel School's Leo Naraja during their middle school game in the CCOPSA caging yesterday at GCA's court in Navy Hill.

Azriel Fatialofa finished in double-digits for the Eagles with her 10 points, while Soleil Lamar logged 7.

The Lady Knights improved their record to 3-2 record, while GCA slipped to a 2-4 card.

In other results, Agape Christian School outclassed Saipan Community School in the latter's court, 46-29.

The Tsunamis kept the Torchbearers within striking distance only in the first half with the latter ahead by 3, 19-16. However, Agape left the former in the dust after the break, as the Torchbearers registered 27 points in the second half.

David Zheng and Bobby Bao paced the Torchbearers after making 12 points apiece. Charlie McDonald led SCS with his 16 points, while Isaiah Aleksenko also hit double figures with his 11 markers.

Agape has yet to lose a game and now holds a 9-0 record, while SCS absorbed its sixth loss in nine outings.

Games in the middle school caging will continue today with Agape and Mt. Carmel playing in a double-header at at the Koblerville Gymnasium and SCS hosting Northern Marianas International School in Susupe. Saipan International School and GCA will square off in the latter's court in Navy Hill.

Boys Division

GCA 26—Lerio 8, Daproza 7, Justin Du 4, Woo 3, Jason Du 2, Yumul 2.

MCS 20—Naraja 11, San Nicolas 6, Borja 3.

Scoring by quarters: 11-3, 15-9, 20-14, 26-20

ACS 46—Bao 12, Zheng 12, Li 8, Tang 8, He 2, Liang 2, Qiu 2.

SCS 29—McDonald 16, Aleksenko 11, Timmons 2.

Scoring by quarters: 11-8, 19-16, 33-23, 46-29

Girls Division

MCS 28—Chavez 16, Pathil 6, Gamb 2, Kiser 2, Matsumoto 2.

GCA 23—Fatialofa 10, Lamar 7, Saures 4, Camacho 2.

Scoring by quarters: 4-1, 13-11, 19-21, 28-23

Dolphins' Rosen says he can be franchise QB

DAVIE, Fla. (AP) — As he embraced a fresh start Monday, Josh Rosen said all the right things, smiled a lot and even cracked a couple of jokes, such as when he noted the phalanx of photographers nearly drowning out his first news conference with the Miami Dolphins .

"These clicks," he said with a chuckle, "are loud."

Rosen does attract clicks, which is a big change for a Dolphins team low on star power. It has been so long since they had a Pro Bowl quarterback that Rosen referred to him as "Mr. Marino."

Despite a rough rookie season that prompted the Arizona Cardinals to discard him, Rosen still believes he can be a Dan Marino-type franchise quarterback. And he's glad to get an opportunity with the Dolphins, who are eager to stop a revolving door at the position that has gone through 19 starters since Marino's last game 20 years ago.

"I couldn't be more excited to be here," Rosen said. "Very rarely do you get a second chance to make a first impression."

As for motivation, Rosen's crooked grin grew wider when he was asked about any chip on his shoulder.

"I don't think my chip has to grow any more," he said. "I might tip over."

He was the 10th overall pick in the 2018 draft but became expendable in Arizona last week when the Cardinals used the No. 1 overall pick to select Kyler Murray. A day later, the Dolphins acquired him for two draft picks to become part of their rebuilding effort under first-year coach Brian Flores.

"I felt like I got drafted twice," he said.

Rosen took no direct jabs at the Cardinals and acknowledged that in Miami he faces a one-year tryout. If he doesn't play well this season, the Dolphins will likely have a poor record and be well-positioned to take a QB early in the first round in 2020.

Rosen also acknowledged his image needs work. Doubts about his leadership and personality linger despite efforts by Arizona teammates and coaches to dispel them.

AP
Miami Dolphins NFL football quarterback Josh Rosen gestures as he speaks during a news conference, Monday, April 29, 2019, at the Dolphins training facility in Davie, Fla. The Dolphins traded a 2019 second-round draft pick and a 2020 fifth-round selection to Arizona for Rosen.

He said the issue dates to his years at UCLA.

"I didn't have all my answers as perfectly crafted as I do now," he said. "I said some things off the cuff, and people misconstrued them. ...

"I think I'm a really good teammate. What I've tried to do is not say or do anything extra, just kind of be me and keep my head down, and eventually the story will straighten out. I think it has for the most part. Time and consistency are the best medicine to cure the narrative."

Meanwhile, injured Pittsburgh Steelers linebacker Ryan Shazier will miss a second straight season while recovering from spinal surgery.

The team placed Shazier on the physically unable to perform list on Monday, allowing him more time to continue his rehabilitation from a lower spine injury suffered against Cincinnati in December 2017.

LEE

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points (combined doubles and singles) and is ranked No. 126 in the world, getting her recent results (100 points) in Morocco in March this year after ruling the singles competition in the J3-ITF/CAT North African Circuit.

Lee will also play in the singles event of the 36th Torneo Bayer di Salsomaggiore and was scheduled to duel De Ponti in the first round yesterday. The CNMI player is seeded No. 8, while her Italian opponent made it to the main draw after winning three matches in the qualifying tournament over the weekend.

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Meanwhile, NMBA president Merlie Tolentino recognizes the significance of their participation in the Pacific Games.

"We would like to build on this momentum (NMBA's historic participation in the Pacific Games) as we aim to strengthen the sport in the CNMI. We will also continue working on finding and developing talents, especially among our youth, for us to have a steady pool of players that can represent our islands in more international and regional competitions in the future," Tolentino said.

Dove commits to women's soccer program anew

Dove continues to rally behind a program that uplifts women by providing them with opportunities to build skills, showcase their talents, and boost their potential.

Dove, through its distributor Unilever International and D&Q Saipan, extended its $10,000 annual sponsorship to the thriving women's soccer program of the Northern Mariana Islands Football Association. Dove's commitment to CNMI women's soccer dates back to 2015, and the brand and its distributors believe the partnership will continue.

Unilever International assistant business development manager Anne Kathryn Ching, D&Q Saipan resident manager Max Kretzers, and regional sales manager Marilyn Marron handed over the $10,000 check to NMIFA officials led by president Jerry Tan. Also present at the check turnover ceremony last Wednesday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville were NMIFA vice president Vickie Izuka, general secretary Ross Zapanta, executive director Ruselle Zapanta, deputy general secretary Merlie Tolentino, treasurer Elna Curate, players from some of the clubs, and members of the CNMI Women's National Team training pool. NMIFA Women's Committee chair Patricia Coleman, who is also part of the NMIFA Executive Committee along with Wesley Bogdan and Norman Del Rosario, attended the event, too.

"We are really happy to support a good cause, to see more and more women, especially the youth, getting involved in soccer. It's good to be part of this program, it's worth it," Kretzers said.

"By supporting this program, Dove and Unilever want to ensure that we don't just do business. We also stand for a purpose and Dove's purpose is to empower women, for them to be comfortable with their skin. Here, we want women players to be comfortable with the sport of soccer, to be confident that they can play well and succeed," Ching said.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Unilever International assistant business development manager Anne Kathryn Ching, third left, front row, and D&Q Saipan resident manager Max Kretzers,, fourth left, front row, hand over the $10,000 check to NMIFA Women's Committee chair Patricia Coleman, fifth left, front row, as Dove continues its commitment to the women's soccer program on the islands.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Members of the CNMI women's and youth training pool pose for a photo after attending the Dove's sponsorship presentation ceremony last Wednesday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

The Unilever official added that it's an honor for Dove to be part of something that provides opportunities to people, especially to women.

"There are a lot of people who are good in sports or have a lot of potential, but they don't have the venue to showcase their talents. Dove is happy and honored that through its sponsorship of NMIFA's women's program, women are given the chance to play, interact with other players and teams, and develop leadership skills," Ching said.

Under the Dove-backed women's soccer program, CNMI players compete in regular leagues, train under certified coaches, participate in off-island tournaments and training camps, and have access to equipment and other resources that help in their improvement.

"Since Day 1, NMIFA has been fully committed to the development of women's soccer. We're so glad that we're able to organize regular leagues for two seasons (spring and fall), strengthen our national team, send many of our girls to international competition, and encourage more girls to join the program. All these would not be possible without corporate support—without Dove, Unilever, and D&Q Saipan. Without them, we will not be able to take our program to the next level. We are very grateful for their generosity and with our partnership, I can confidently say that our women's soccer program has a bright future," Tan said.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Unilever International assistant business development manager Anne Kathryn Ching, fourth right second row, and D&Q Saipan resident manager Max Kretzers, second left second row, join Northern Mariana Islands Football officials led by president Jerry Tan, third right, second row, and the female players in the CNMI for a group photo after Dove presented the $10,000 check to NMIFA to extend its sponsorship of the women's soccer program in the Commonwealth last Wednesday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

Empowering women

Women's soccer in the CNMI has come a long way, from female players joining co-ed leagues just to hit the pitch to women doing the recruitment themselves to share the beauty of the sport and inspire them to stay active.

Dove's consistent support made it easier for the program to grow.

"Dove truly stands to empower women. In addition to boosting players' morale, Dove's sponsorship has helped fund training camps and other player development opportunities for our U14 to full women's national team. It has also helped subsidize the costs (to join leagues) for female players who experience financial hardship," said Coleman, who assisted with the founding of the first women's league.

"With Dove allowing our players to compete here and off-island, they gain invaluable experiences that teach work ethic, teamwork, and leadership," the former CNMI National Team member added.

Si Yu'us Ma'ase

"We owe what we are enjoying with the program to our supporters, led by Dove," said CNMI National Women's Team member Guinevere Borja, who has been playing soccer for nearly 15 years.

"Like what my mom (Coleman) said, when the program started, it was tough to get players because of some financial challenges. Coaches/officials had to pick up players from schools or their homes to bring them to the pitch and provide them with other assistance. But when Dove came, we got more support and it was easier to encourage the girls to come out and join the sport because we have the resources," Borja said.

Through Dove and NMIFA's support, Borja and a host of female players managed to travel to other countries not only to compete and train, but to experience other people's culture.

"Thank you Dove for providing us with the opportunities that not everyone can have. Even though we don't always get the results we hope for when we compete, your continued support inspires us to train harder and stay focused and committed to the program because we know someone has our back. Thank you, Dove," Borja said.

The national team member also encouraged other women to join the sport.

"We are always welcoming new players. Come and join us to have the opportunity and honor to represent our islands and to stay fit and healthy," Borja said. ***(PR)***

Jokic leads Nuggets past Blazers in Game 1

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Giants snap Dodgers' four-game win streak

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NMBA DEBUTS IN REGIONAL COMPETITION

Historic Pacific Games stint

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Seven players will represent the Northern Marianas Badminton Association and CNMI in the 2019 Pacific Games in Samoa.

Nate Guerrero, siblings Jordan and Janelle Pangilinan, brothers Ezekiel and Daniel Macario, Nicole Malasarte, and Andreau Galvez are the members of the elite squad, which is the first group that NMBA will be fielding in the regional competition.

"It feels great to be apart of the team and most especially the first squad to join the badminton tournament in the Pacific Games," said Guerrero, who is also the team's captain.

Guerrero and company have been training for the Pacific Games that will run from July 7 to 20 since the first quarter of the year and he likes the significant improvement the team has shown.

"Right now, the training sessions are going great. We are actually practicing pretty well considering everyone's busy schedule with work and school. The focus is to minimize mistakes and adjust to our partners," said Guerrero, who has consistently placed in tournaments NMBA hosted in the past years.

"Not having any kind of coaching before, we rely on each other and videos to pick up new things," the team captain added.

Guerrero, Daniel, and Galvez are the veterans on the squad with the latter a perennial contender in Class A of local tournaments and had his share of victories in a couple of events in Guam. Ezekiel, Malasarte, and the Pangilinan siblings are the young guns, but are regulars in NMBA-sanctioned competitions.

Asked about their chances in the Pacific Games, Guerrero said they are capable of producing positive results in Apia.

"The team has been really putting in an effort to practice and learn. I could say that everyone is a lot better than last year and having said that, I am confident that we will have good results in Samoa," said Guerrero, adding that New Caledonia and Fiji will be the teams to watch in the quadrennial meet.

"There are a lot of good teams out there, but I think New Caledonia and Fiji will be the toughest, assuming New Zealand and Australia won't be competing," the former Little League player said.

Australia and New Zealand, as of yesterday, are not listed among the countries that will be competing in badminton. Fiji, New Caledonia, and the CNMI are joined on the list by the hosts, American Samoa, the Cook Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, Guam, Kiribati, Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands, Tahiti, and Tuvalu. The 14 nations will play in the men's and women's singles and doubles and mixed doubles events from July 8 to 13.

"We all are aware of what a great opportunity this is and we are excited to get some experience playing in an off-island tournament like this. However, the main goal/objective is to go out there and win. Being the first champions for badminton in the Pacific Games would be a great achievement," Guerrero said.

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JORDAN PANGILINAN

DANIEL MACARIO

GALVEZ

GUERRERO

JANELLE PANGILINAN

MALASARTE

EZEKIEL MACARIO

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Carol Lee, seen here competing in the 2019 Australian Open Juniors, won her debut in Europe after prevailing in the doubles event of the 36th Torneo Bayer di Salsomaggiore in Italy.

Lee wins opener in Europe

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI's Carol Lee played her first game in Europe and had a winning debut in the 36th Torneo Bayer di Salsomaggiore.

Lee teamed up with Ecuador's Mell Elizabeth Reasco Gonzales and they swept the Italian pair of Guilia Martinelli and Emma Valleta, 6-3, 6-4, last Monday (Tuesday morning on Saipan) to march into the quarterfinal round of the claycourt tournament being held at the Tennis Club Salsomaggiore Via del Lavoro in Salsomaggiore, Italy.

The Commonwealth player and her partner are seeded No. 3 in the 16-team doubles field and will have their quarterfinals game today. Lee and Gonzales will meet the winner in the first round match between Matilde Mariani and Matilde Paoletti of Italy and the Chinese-Italian pair of Siija Wei and Rubina Marta De Ponti.

Lee and Gonzales are at the top half of the draw and another victory may set them up for a semis showdown against tournament favorites and No. 1 seed Carlota Martinez Cirez of Spain and Federica Rossi of Italy.

The 36th Torneo Bayer di Salsomaggiore is a Grade 2 event under the Juniors ITF World and marks the start of Lee's more than a month campaign in Europe. She will play in another tournament in Italy and two in Belgium before heading back to Morocco to train at the regional facility there.

A Grade 2 event is ranked No. 5 in the level of competition in the ITF World behind Grand Slam/Junior Olympics, Junior Masters, Grade A, and Grade 1. It awards 120 world ranking points to the doubles champions and 160 to the singles winner.

So far, Lee has 345 ranking

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